



Marriage tames geniuses

PARIS—Creative genius and crime express themselves early in men but both are turned off almost like a tap if a man gets married and begets children, a study says.

MARRIAGE/A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

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GMA targets sweatshops

'We cannot allow this to continue'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Martin P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants to know how a garment factory in Taytay, Rizal, was able to obtain the necessary export requirements despite the substandard wages and working conditions of its workers.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said she had ordered a stop to the sweatshop practices of Anvil Ensembles, to which her attention was called by an INQUIRER report last week detailing the workers' complaints, including shifts of up to 72 hours with the occasional help of an insomnia-inducing drug.

But Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said the real issue was not so much sweatshop operations as labor contractualization.

"Laws must be passed to oppose the unreasonable use of contractual labor," said the newly proclaimed party-list representative.

"Without these laws, any alliance against sweatshops such as the one formed by the Congep (Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines) and TUCP (Trade Union Congress of the Philippines) would be a mere talking shop."

Bunye said the President had instructed Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to investigate the conditions at Anvil, which makes baby clothes for leading American companies, and "impose sanctions if warranted by law."

"Look into that. You know I came from the GTEB, so we cannot allow this thing to continue," Sto. Tomas quoted the President as telling her two days ago.

She noted that Ms Macapagal once

GMA TARGETS/A20



CLUELESS: Police officers sort through the debris in the fish section of the Koronadal public market after the bombing, the fourth in the city this year which came exactly two months after the last one, which killed nine people and wounded 40 others. No one yet has claimed responsibility for the attack.

3 dead, 28 hurt in Koronadal market bombing

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Joselle R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KORONADAL CITY—An improvised bomb tore through the public market's fish section yesterday afternoon, killing at least three people and injuring at least 28 others.

Bella Lechonsito, South Cotabato social welfare officer, said an 11-year-old girl was among those killed by the bomb, which exploded at about 2:45 p.m.

The blast was the fourth bomb explosion in the city this year, and came exactly two months after the last one, which killed nine people and wounded more

than 40 others. That blast occurred about 30 meters from yesterday's explosion.

An official of the Koronadal Market Vendors Association (Komava) said the explosive was left by a customer under a pile of used clothing at an "ukay-ukay" (rummage) stall.

Koronadal Mayor Fernando Miguel

condemned the bomb attack, and called on the people to remain calm while letting the authorities do their job.

"The blast came despite the city-wide campaign by local government units to make the residents vigilant against terror attacks," said South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes.

3 DEAD/A17

GMA aides urged to stop saying she's running

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACANANG and Lakas-CMD officials have been told to "stop saying that the President is running," according to Hernani Braganza, her adviser on political affairs.

Braganza said he met yesterday with

Jose Ma. Rufino and Heherson Alvarez, executive director and national spokesperson of the ruling party, respectively, to relay President Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction, and would meet with other officials today.

But Braganza said Ms Macapagal issued the order to him when he assumed

office on June 18. He did not say why he started implementing this only yesterday.

Alvarez and Rufino were the latest to raise the possibility that the President would go back on her Dec. 30 announcement and stand for election in 2004.

Braganza said half in jest that the gag

order applied even to his uncle, former President Fidel Ramos, who said early this week that Ms Macapagal should soon make up her mind on the matter.

Asked whether the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo was included in the gag order, Braganza said: "The First

GMA AIDES/A17

Danding's bid boosted, lambasted

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau and Martin Marfil in Manila

MAASIN CITY—The test-the-waters campaign of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. continued to make waves, of all kinds.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Yniguez Lerias has initiated a signature drive in the province to draft Cojuangco to run for president in 2004.

But a militant labor union charged that Cojuangco, the chair of sequestered San Miguel Corp., was unfit to be president because of "crimes" against workers.

Lerias, Nationalist People's Coalition provincial chair, said about 10,000 signatures have been collected since they started the campaign, dubbed "We Need ECJ" (Cojuangco's initials), on Sunday.

The number already exceeded their target of about 8,000 signatures or 5 percent of 160,000, the province's voting population.

DANDING/A18

Gringo gunning for president

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, a former Army colonel who failed in several coup attempts between 1986 and 1989 against then President Corazon Aquino, has offered himself as the presidential candidate of the opposition.

"At this point I would submit myself to the selection process of the united opposition. I submit myself to be one of the possible leaders," Honasan said yesterday at a news conference.

Honasan told reporters that he didn't think that his bid for higher office would put him in collision

GRINGO/A17



H4 or the Honasan for President Movement launches the candidacy of Sen. Gregorio Honasan on Thursday at the Westin Plaza Hotel.

ERIK ARAZAS

Meralco execs assailed over fat salaries

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOP officials of Manila Electric Co. are "feeding off the misery and poverty of the people" with its president and senior vice president each receiving P1.5 million in monthly compensation, or a total of P18.6 million a year, according to a consumer group.

Other officers and board directors of Meralco each received a total of P29.99 million in salaries and bonuses in 2002, said Giovanni Tapang, a physics professor, said salaries were included in Meralco's maintenance and operation expenses, which form part of the firm's rate base.

"This is what is indicated in the

information statement, which Meralco sent its stockholders," Tapang said in a statement.

Tapang, a physics professor, said salaries were included in Meralco's maintenance and operation expenses, which form part of the firm's rate base.

"If Meralco was placed under

government control, we would not be paying for the scandalously high salaries of these executives," Tapang said. "We would have saved millions of pesos."

In a telephone interview, Meralco president Jesus Francisco

MERALCO/A19



'PRECIOUS' ENVOY

President Macapagal swears in educator Preciosa Soliven, currently the country Unesco secretary general, as Philippine ambassador to Canada. She's the wife of Star publisher Max Soliven.

MALACANANG PHOTO

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, RDI RESEARCH/07/11/03

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

NPA to remain on US terror list

COMMUNIST rebels will remain on a US list of terrorist groups indefinitely because of continued attacks on civilians and government targets, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said yesterday.

Washington and the European Union's move to blacklist the communist New People's Army last year have hampered the resumption of peace talks between the government and the rebels.

The guerrillas have stepped up attacks since then and accused the US government of listing them as terrorists to scuttle the talks and allow the American military to intensify its support to the Philippine government's campaign to crush the 34-year communist rebellion, one of Southeast Asia's longest.

They said President Macapagal-Arroyo should declare that her administration does not recognize Washington's terrorist tag to pave the way for the resumption of talks.

The government backed off two years ago from the talks, hosted by Norway, after guerrillas killed a former congressman they accused of human rights violations.

Ricciardone said the US decision to blacklist the guerrillas was a unilateral decision that would not be reversed unless they halt attacks and renounce terrorism.

"It's an American policy issue. When there is a group anywhere in the world that murders people and brags about it, that burns civilian buses, bulldozers that are needed to build roads for people... that's terrorism," Ricciardone said.

"You can have a negotiation,



RICCIARDONE

and if they promise the government they're going to be peaceful and become a political party instead of a gang of murderers, that would be a wonderful thing," Ricciardone said.

But citing recent rebel attacks, he added: "We don't see any change of the situation right now."

While taking steps to try to resume negotiations, the Philippine government has continued military offensives and recently announced a crackdown on groups with suspected communist rebel links.

Yesterday, Ricciardone turned over to Ms Macapagal three refurbished Huey military helicopters which Philippine military officials said would eventually be used for assaults against communist and Muslim guerrillas in the south.

The military estimates there are about 9,000 communist guerrillas nationwide.

Ople: MILF stalling on peace talks

By Norman Bordadora

FOREIGN Secretary Blas Ople yesterday said the Moro Islamic Liberation was stalling the peace talks for continuing to shun the courts in moving for the lifting of the government's warrants for the arrest of top MILF leaders.

This developed as Malaysian ambassador Taufik Mohammad said that the conduct of the peace talks could be a major factor in the Philippines' bid for observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Ople made the announcement in the wake of an MILF statement that it was not moving for the lifting of the arrest warrants on MILF leader Salamat Hashim and other rebel leaders because they do not recognize the Constitution and the jurisdiction of national courts.

"If you are looking for evidence of the MILF's bad faith and in sincerity, then this is it," Ople said.

The secretary said that the MILF is obstructing the resumption of the peace talks since Malaysia, the third party mediator in the peace talks, wants the warrants recalled and the granting of safe conduct passes.

"The MILF leadership should be held solely responsible for the delay if not the failure of the peace negotiations," Ople said.

Ople said that the effectiveness of the arrest warrants can be easily suspended if only the MILF leaders initiate legal proceedings in the Davao courts.

Taufik, meanwhile, said that individual OIC countries are monitoring the conduct of the Philippines' peace process with the Moro secessionists.

Jose de V sees peace by end of GMA term

By Cynthia D. Balana

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday said he expected separate peace agreements with the Muslim secessionists and communist rebels to be completed before President Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends in June next year.

De Venecia, who helped revive the stalled peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines' National Democratic Front in Oslo, Norway, said the peace pacts were a serious priority and "not a pipe dream."

He expressed confidence that the government could successfully negotiate a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army in three to six months.

Talks with the MILF led by its chair, Salamat Hashim, are being brokered by Malaysia and Libya, with the active support of the United States.

Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain of the US Aid for International Development (US-AID) earlier said the US had earmarked \$50 million for a peace and development package for Mindanao that would be released after the signing of an agreement.

De Venecia said he recently met with a top Malaysian defense official to speed up negotiations. The Speaker was also in Amsterdam, where he met with NDF leader Jose Ma. Sison and negotiators Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili.

He said the governments of Norway and the Netherlands have agreed to put pressure on both sides to expedite a final agreement, with Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik as facilitator.

Norway successfully brokered peace negotiations between the central government of Sri Lanka and the insurgent Tamil Tigers.

But Akbayan party-list Representative Mario Aguja yesterday said the US' \$50-million offer should be refused.

This would just give the Macapagal administration more reason to rush the talks, at the risk of avoiding primary issues like land problems, ethno-religious rights, and governance, Aguja said.

"The offer... further obscures these substantive matters that are the heart of the conflict, and which should be the focus of the peace process," he added.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran agreed, saying the \$50 million offer was a bribe that would be released "with strong ropes, not just strings, attached."

Beltran said the US wanted "to invest in Mindanao and get three or four times the amount in return."

For sure, he said, the money would be used not to promote genuine development programs but to "intensify military campaigns against rebels, and improve infrastructures for the benefit of foreign investors."

The intended beneficiaries, Beltran insisted, would receive "only crumbs."

Abu bandit slain as troops press hunt for Janjalani

By TJ Burgonio and Aquiles Z. Zonio

PDI Mindanao Bureau

A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed during a brief clash with soldiers outside Zamboanga City early Wednesday even as the military was combing the forests of Palimbang in Sultan Kudarat for Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani who is reported to have escaped from Basilan and slipped into the south central Mindanao province over the weekend.

The slain bandit, believed to be a member of the Isnilon Hapilon faction, was not identified. His body, along with a Garand rifle, was recovered after the clash, said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

Lucero said a group of Scout Rangers chanced upon the bandits while patrolling Hill 24 in Cabungan, Eleven Islands. The bandits escaped after a 15-minute gun battle.

Hapilon, Janjalani and three other Abu Sayyaf leaders have continued to elude capture. The United States has offered a \$5 million bounty for them in connection with the 2001 kidnapping of a group of tourists in Palawan, including missionary couple Martin and Grace Burnham.

The clash came days after the Army's 601st Brigade launched a massive search for Janjalani and about 30 Abu Sayyaf bandits. The group is believed to have crossed over the Moro Gulf from Basilan into Sultan Kudarat over the weekend, using at least three motorboats.

Local officials had confirmed the pres-

ence of the bandits in the area and police have seized the boats.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said that the Navy and the Air Force would help in the operation to block the escape of the bandits.

He said this time the military would pin down Janjalani, noting that the bandits were unfamiliar with the terrain and that villagers were helping in the hunt.

The military has estimated the present strength of the Abu Sayyaf at less than 400, mostly based in Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga.

In Palimbang, local officials and police yesterday confirmed that 54 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Janjalani did arrive in the coastal town.

Mayor Labualas Mamansual cited reports from barangay officials of Lebua and his former comrades in the Moro National Liberation Front led by commander Ronnie Piang who chairs the MNLF's Biwang state revolutionary committee.

Mamansual, known as commander Samrond when he was a top MNLF leader in Palimbang in the 1970s, said MNLF members and Muslim residents in the area are quite familiar with Janjalani who was one of the MNLF's youngest fighters.

Janjalani is said to have been with former MNLF chair Nur Misuari when the latter visited Palimbang in the 1970s to set up the Biwang state revolutionary command.

"That is the reason why the people here easily recognized him," Mamansual said.

NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF

TONG LUNG (PHILIPPINES) METAL INDUSTRY CO., INC.

July 11, 2003

Dear Stockholders:

The Special Meeting of the Stockholders of Tong Lung (Philippines) Metal Industry Co., Inc. (the "Corporation") is to be held at the principal office of the Corporation at Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines at 9:00 a.m. on July 25, 2003 for the purpose of considering and taking appropriate action on the following matters:

1. Provision of major operating assets as collaterals; and
2. Any other business which may legally be conducted at the meeting.

This announcement will serve as a notice to all concerned of the aforesaid Special Meeting of the Corporation.

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FRIDAY,
JULY 11, 2003

A 3

Aussies lift ban on RP seamen

AUSTRALIA has lifted the ban on Philippine seafarers, the Professional Regulation Commission announced yesterday.

In a letter to PRC chairperson Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said Australia would now start recognizing the PRC certificates.

Amsa manager for ship operations John Briggs was quoted in the Lloyds List as saying the lifting of the ban was in recognition of PRC's efforts to ensure the integrity of professional

marine licenses. Norman Bordadora

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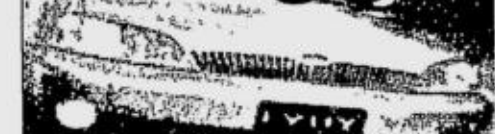
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RP seeks freeze of Dante Tan's Aussie deposits

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINE government has formally asked Australia to freeze the bank assets of Dante Tan, estimated at nearly US\$500,000. It has also canceled the fugitive businessman's Philippine passport.

"We submitted earlier this week

a request for the tracing and freezing of Mr. Tan's assets in Australia," Justice Undersecretary Ma. Mercedes Gutierrez said yesterday. "The Australian government has acknowledged receipt of the request, and we're waiting for the corresponding action."

Gutierrez also said the Depart-

ment of Foreign Affairs canceled Tan's passport upon the DOJ's request.

But she admitted that the Philippine government could do nothing about two other passports—one Australian, the other Chinese—that Tan is believed to be using.

Tan fled to Australia after he was implicated in the biggest insider trading scandal in the country's stock market four years ago. But he had to leave Australia last month in the wake of a political storm resulting from his illegal contribution to the 2001 campaign of Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock.

Ruddock gave Tan his Australian citizenship in 2002.

After he escaped, it was discovered that the businessman also gave money to a member of the opposition in the Australian parliament.

Tan is believed to be in China using his Chinese name Shaoghi Chen, but justice officials refused to confirm this.

Asked if the Chinese Embassy in Manila had given her information on Tan's whereabouts, Gutierrez declined to answer, saying it was a "leading question."

Gutierrez was to have met with Chinese officials two weeks ago to confirm reports about Tan being in the mainland.

Shortly after, she said the Philippines was inquiring with officials of the country where Tan could be hiding, to discuss "requirements" for his repatriation.

China does not have an extradition treaty with the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the Philippines also asked Australia to arrest Tan in case he went back there.

And the DOJ would be ready

once Tan is returned to Manila, Gutierrez said, adding that the ongoing investigation could also lead to the cancellation of the fugitive's Australian passport.

The Philippines was about to ask Australia to extradite Tan, when the businessman escaped on June 4.

Gutierrez said Philippine authorities did not know that Tan was in Australia until news of the Ruddock campaign scandal broke out.

Tan, an associate of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was charged before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court on Dec. 18, 2000 for the Best World Resources stock manipulation scam. The court issued three arrest warrants against him.

The scam led to the near-collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which severely damaged investors' confidence and contributed to Estrada's ouster.

CFC FROM CHINA

Ozone-depleting shipment seized

AUTHORITIES have intercepted P5.3 million worth of banned ozone-depleting substances imported from China by a Mandaluyong-based firm, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said yesterday.

Seized at the North Harbor last Friday, the contraband consisted of some 2,000 cylinders of CFC-12 or chlorofluorocarbons, a banned refrigerant under the Toxic and Hazardous Waste Act. CFC-12 is also known as Freon-12 or R-12.

The importer identified as the Britches Trading Corp. located at Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong, employed a "smuggling" technique called "double layering" to sneak in the CFCs, said DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun.

The company had actually obtained permits from the DENR's Philippine Ozone Desk to import 31.2 tons of "alternative" refrigerants called HCFC-22 (chlorodifluoromethane), Gozun said. But when checked, the shipment yielded only three tons of HCFC-12, while the rest

was made up of CFC-12s, she said. DENR and Customs officials made the discovery in a "surprise inspection" of two 20-foot container vans at the port.

While the product was traced to have originated from Shanghai, the shipment was made through Taiwan-based firm Stand Long Enterprises Co., Ltd.

The DENR chief said the importer not only violated the Toxic Wastes Act but also committed smuggling by way of import misdeclaration. On June 4, a 15-ton cargo of banned refrigerants, again from Shanghai, was also seized, prompting the DENR to formally ask for cooperation from its Chinese counterpart in checking "the apparent existence of a smuggling route for ozone-depleting substances."

The country is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty ratified by 180 countries calling for the phaseout of all ODS by 2020 in First World countries and by 2040 in the Third World. *Volc Contreras*

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CORRECTION

GUESS who didn't come to Boy Saycon's dinner?

A front page story yesterday on the personalities who attended Pastor "Boy" Saycon's birthday celebration on Tuesday night inadver-

tently identified Ching Montinola as former Ambassador Ching Escaler. The reporter, Fe. B. Zamora, mistook Ching Escaler for Ching Montinola. Ching Escaler has been in Europe since June 19.

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EXTRADITION HEARING

Gov't lawyers to help bring Atong Ang back

THE JUSTICE department is sending a team of lawyers to the United States to observe the hearings and help prosecutors in the extradition case of fugitive Chinese-Filipino businessman Atong Ang.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Mercedes Gutierrez said chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuñiga and several other lawyers from the department and from the Ombudsman's office will be attending the hearing on Ang's extradition on July 14.

Besides Zuñiga, lawyers Dina Joy Tañala, Gabriel Enriquez, Arno Sanidad and another one from the Ombudsman's office will leave for the US on Sunday, Gutierrez said.

Jeffrey Cole, the justice attaché of the US Embassy in Manila will

lead in the presentation of the evidence. US Assistant District Attorney Gregory Damm will assist him.

"The documents are complete and there is no doubt that we will win and [Ang] will be brought back here to answer the accusations in the plunder case against him," Gutierrez said.

Ang, an associate of jailed ex-president Estrada, is a co-accused in the plunder case against the disgraced leader before the Sandiganbayan.

Ang has been allowed to post bail and is under house arrest in his Las Vegas, Nevada home. US marshals are monitoring Ang's movements with the help of an electronic device that Ang is supposed to always carry around. Philip C. Tubeza

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Erap lawyer
wants to appeal
to the people

By Armand Nocum

THE LAWYER of jailed ex-president Estrada is impatient for his client's legal battle in the courts to be over so they can proceed to the "political phase" of the disgraced leader's defense.

Lawyer Alan Pagua said the Estrada camp was ready to seek "all legal remedies," including taking his motion to dismiss the plunder charges before the Supreme Court and pursuing the impeachment case he filed against the high court justices.

"Contrary to prosecution lawyers' claims that the defense was delaying the case, Pagua said they want it over and done with soon so they can go on to the "political solution" of Estrada's woes.

"If the legal battle is over, then there will be the political solution. That's why we want this case finished this year," Pagua said.

He said Estrada's supporters, including some lawyers' groups, have been going to the barangays to explain his case to Estrada's diehard supporters.

Estrada confirmed this in an earlier interview, saying that he still commanded the respect of his supporters. He laughed off remarks he has become a "spent force."

"They are watching the outcome of the case filed by Pagua. We have leaders who explain to them. The masa is well-informed," Estrada said. Pagua said that should Estrada fail to win the legal battle, then he would be left with no recourse but to take his case to the people.

He said this was the reason why the defense lawyers are taking such pains to explain Estrada's case to the masses, even if it means drafting their recent motion in Filipino.

But Pagua declined to say what the political solution would be, saying that was not his expertise.

The lawyer said the threat of a contempt action from the Supreme Court only strengthened the resolve of the Estrada camp to seek such a "political solution."

The Supreme Court has warned Pagua that he could be held in contempt for sending a list of questions to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban regarding their role in the second Edsa people power uprising.

Pagua said the the high court's admonition has the effect of stopping him from bringing before the SC the motion asking the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the plunder charges against Estrada for lack of jurisdiction.

The motion, which argued that Estrada was illegally ousted by Edsa II, was dismissed by the Sandiganbayan last week.

The anti-graft court said it did not have the authority to overturn the Supreme Court decision upholding the legitimacy of the Macapagal government.

Ex-UP regent
faces raps over
Erap donation

A FORMER student regent of the University of the Philippines was yesterday charged before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly embezzling a P15 million cash donation from jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Charged with estafa was Hanah Eunice Serana, a UP Diliman regent representing the students in 2000, for allegedly defrauding the government of the funds released by the President's Social Fund for the renovation of the university's Vinzons Hall.

Her brother, Jade Ian Serana, was indicted along with her on allegations of conspiracy.

The Ombudsman investigators found that Serana had obtained the money from Estrada in exchange for promising to rename the hall the "President Joseph Ejercito Estrada Hall."

But even after the money was released on Oct. 25, no repair, renovation or improvement was ever implemented in the UP Hall, according to the complaint.

The investigators also said the funds were illegally disbursed as the money had been issued not to UP but to the Office of the Student Regent Foundation. Armand N. Nocum

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Melchor death anniversary

THE FIRST death anniversary of the late Ambassador and former Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor Jr. will be marked tomorrow by his family relatives, friends and former associates with a 9:30 am. Mass will be celebrated at the chapel of the Carmelite Convent on Gilmore St., Quezon City, to be officiated by Fr. Napoleon G. Jinon, OSJ as celebrant.

Two more masses are scheduled tomorrow at the Stella Orientalis chapel of the University of Asia & The Pacific and at the Residents' Social Hall of the Wack Wack Subdivision, Mandaluyong.

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PROCLIMED: Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos raises the hands of proclaimed party-list representatives Rene Velarde of BUHAY, Mujir Hataman of AMIN, Dioscoro Granada of ABA, Emerito Calderon of Cocofed, JV Bautista of Sanlakas, Patricia Sarenas of Abanse Pinay and Renato Magtubo of Partidong Manggagawa.

ERIK ARAZAS

Despite protest, 7 new solons are proclaimed

By Martin P. Marfil

THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday dismissed a Marcos loyalist group's attempt to stop the proclamation of seven new party-list representatives.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos told the group in a hearing that the election body had no other option but to proclaim the seven as the Supreme Court had already ruled on it in an order issued July 8.

With the ruling, the Comelec proclaimed the seven new party-list congressmen.

Those proclaimed, after a delay caused by the hearing, were Rene Velarde of El Shaddai's Buhay Hayaang Yumabong or Buhay, Mujir Hataman of Anak Mindanao or Amin, Dioscoro Granada of Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda or ABA, Renato Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa, JV Bautista of Sanlakas and Pat Sarenas of Abanse Pinay.

Delayed

Emerito Calderon of the Philippine Coconut Producers' Federation or Cocofed, did not make it to the proclamation which was delayed by the motions for deferment

filed by the True Marcos Loyalists and the National Confederation of Irrigators Association.

Marcos Loyalists, through its lawyer Homobono Adaza, wanted the Comelec body to defer the proclamation of all while the NCIA wanted to defer the proclamation of Abanse Pinay as NCIA garnered more votes than Abanse Pinay.

The NCIA also said that Abanse Pinay had not filed a motion for immediate proclamation like the other party-list groups.

In a bid to defer the proclamation, NCIA filed two petitions before the High Court, on July 7 and 9.

The True Marcos Loyalists said it garnered more votes than Sanlakas and Abanse Pinay.

Personality cult

Adaza also pointed out that True Marcos Loyalists was disqualified earlier because of a Comelec decision which said that "perhaps" it was a "personality cult".

But for lawyer JV Bautista, the newly-proclaimed Sanlakas representative, the move was doomed to fail.

He pointed out that the High Court issued its order on the proclamation of the seven groups on June 25, an order which gave the Comelec

up to July 12 to proclaim the winners.

The party-lists group, with the exception of Abanse Pinay, filed a motion for immediate proclamation before the Supreme Court.

On July 8, the High Court granted their motion which paved the way for the proclamation, Bautista said.

Comelec revamp

On the coming elections, Abalos yesterday said that he plans to reshuffle his elections officers to allay fears that Comelec people are getting too familiar with politicians.

On Wednesday, he said all regional and assistant regional directors would be called to a meeting so that they can make recommendations concerning the matter.

Among those who would be reshuffled are 15 regional directors, 15 assistant regional directors and 1,381 election officers.

He also said that the general registration for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao would start on July 25 up to July 30.

The Comelec is set to utilize about 1,000 validating machines for the registration of the supposed 1.5 million voters in the area.

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Pagpapasalamat ng  sa Pamilyang Pilipino

Aussie PM to bring aid package for RP

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister John Howard will announce a security aid package for the Philippines during his three-day visit next week, as his country works to build an anti-terrorism shield following the Bali bombing, Canberra's envoy said yesterday.

The July 13-15 visit is the first leg of Howard's three-nation Asian tour, which also includes South Korea and Japan. Australian ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce said he was scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo and her Cabinet, Australian and Filipino business leaders, the president of the Asian Development Bank, Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Pearce said the security aid package would "cut across the full range of counter-terrorism activity from the police, border security and port security."



HOWARD

not say if the visit would lead to a breakthrough. She said, however, that Howard was expected to push for more foreign investment in the local mining industry. Insurgency and related security problems, red tape and an unresolved Supreme Court lawsuit against foreign mining interests all served to discourage investment in the country's rich resources sector, the envoy said.

"Australia has a lot to bring to the mining sector in the Philippines," she said in a forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association.

Ms Macapagal said shortly after becoming president in 2001 that her government would encourage mining only in areas where the business is welcomed by the community. Norman Bordadora, AFP and AP

Australian focus

After the blasts on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in October that claimed 202 lives—nearly half of them Australian holiday-makers—counter-terrorism was "very much a focus of Australia's interaction in the region," according to Pearce. The blasts were blamed on Islamic militants.

"We have a number of bilateral MOUs (memoranda of understanding) with about six countries now," the envoy said. This includes one signed in Manila last March, which provides a framework for "increased counter-terrorism co-operation between security, intelligence, law enforcement and defense officials from the two countries, as well as officials from other relevant agencies, such as customs and immigration."

Pearce said Howard's visit—only the second by an Australian leader since 1986—would "add some practical flesh to that MOU." She did not give details.

"Peace and order is a challenge in the Philippines, but Ms Macapagal is responding well," she noted. "The situation does not prevent (Australia) from carrying out business in Mindanao, but we do have to be more cautious."

The embassy earlier advised its citizens to avoid "nonessential" travel to the south.

Commercial links

Howard and Ms Macapagal will also discuss "commercial links," Pearce said. The Philippines has been seeking access for a number of key tropical fruit exports to Australia, but the envoy could

Security woes bug mining in RP, says envoy

DEVELOPMENT of the Philippine mining industry has been hampered by worries over law and order and a long-running case challenging foreign ownership in mining projects, an Australian envoy said yesterday.

"Security is a big issue. Mindanao and security for mining," Australian ambassador Ruth Pearce told foreign correspondents, referring to the strife-torn southern Philippine island.

Fighting in some parts of Mindanao between government troops and Muslim rebels battling for a separate Islamic state in the south of this mainly Catholic country has dampened investor interest in recent years, officials and businessmen have said.

A case before the Supreme Court by tribal groups and environmentalists challenging the legality of a 1995 law liberalizing foreign ownership in mining projects also hit investment prospects, Pearce said.

"It's a big obstacle to big investment," Pearce said, adding Australian mining firms have a stake in local mining projects, including the Tampakan copper-gold deposit near General Santos City in Mindanao.

Tampakan is believed to be the largest undeveloped copper-gold deposit in Southeast Asia.

"If all of these issues can be resolved, then mining potentially would be a huge investment in the Philippines,"

and it would also encourage interest from other countries like China and Korea, who are very keen on looking for resources such as copper and gold," Pearce said. Reuters

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320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	800,000.00
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Who wants peace?

OFFERS of financial help from various sources are making the search for peace in Mindanao easier. President Macapagal-Arroyo said this Wednesday after the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it would give \$30 million this year, \$20 million next year and possibly more in succeeding years once the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front sign a peace agreement.

EDITORIAL

The money will be in addition to some \$70 million already pledged for this year by the US government, more than half of which has been earmarked for projects in Mindanao. This financial package is supplemented by an offer to bring experienced diplomats to help in the negotiations. But those sums will only be released "if there is an end to violence in the area," Wendy Chamberlin, USAID assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East, emphasized.

Ms Macapagal said the US offer of financial assistance for the peace process indicated a shift in strategy for the partnership between the Philippines and the United States "from an alliance against terrorism to an alliance for peace." "This is part of the new perspective of political and economic security in Asia and the Pacific that has emerged in the post-Iraq war period," she added.

But even as the President welcomed the US financial support, she again showed her reluctance to commit the government fully to the peace process by setting another condition for restarting the negotiations. Malaysia, which has a standing offer to host the peace talks, had earlier noted that it would be difficult to resume negotiations unless the arrest warrants issued against top MILF leaders are lifted. Ms Macapagal initially said the matter was out of her hands since the warrants were issued by the court, which is an independent body. Now she is saying the MILF should make the first move by filing a formal petition with the court.

That's a very poor excuse for holding up the peace process. Under court rules, either party can move to lift an arrest warrant and the court can grant it for meritorious reasons. The prosecution service is under the executive, so it is less than accurate to say the President cannot do anything about it.

For some time now, it appears that everyone with a stake in the peace process wants the negotiations to start again. Everyone, that is, except Ms Macapagal and her hawkish advisers.

The MILF, in particular, seems to have done just about everything in the last few months to get the talks going again. In June, it declared a unilateral ceasefire, which the government did not reciprocate. Salamat Hashim, the MILF chair, has publicly renounced terrorism as "anathema to Islam," in compliance with one of the conditions set by the administration for the resumption of talks. And he has agreed to sit at the negotiating table, again in compliance with the government's wishes.

On the other hand, the administration seems to be constantly searching for excuses not to return to the negotiating table, questioning at every turn the sincerity of the secessionist group in seeking peace and setting new conditions as soon as the other side accedes to some of them. But how much farther can it move the goal post before the other side completely loses interest in playing the game?

With the altered political landscape after 9/11 and with so much encouragement and support being extended all around, it is hard to imagine a more auspicious time to talk about a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Southern Philippines. The problem is, the administration isn't willing to seize the opportunity before it slips away.

Victory isn't enough

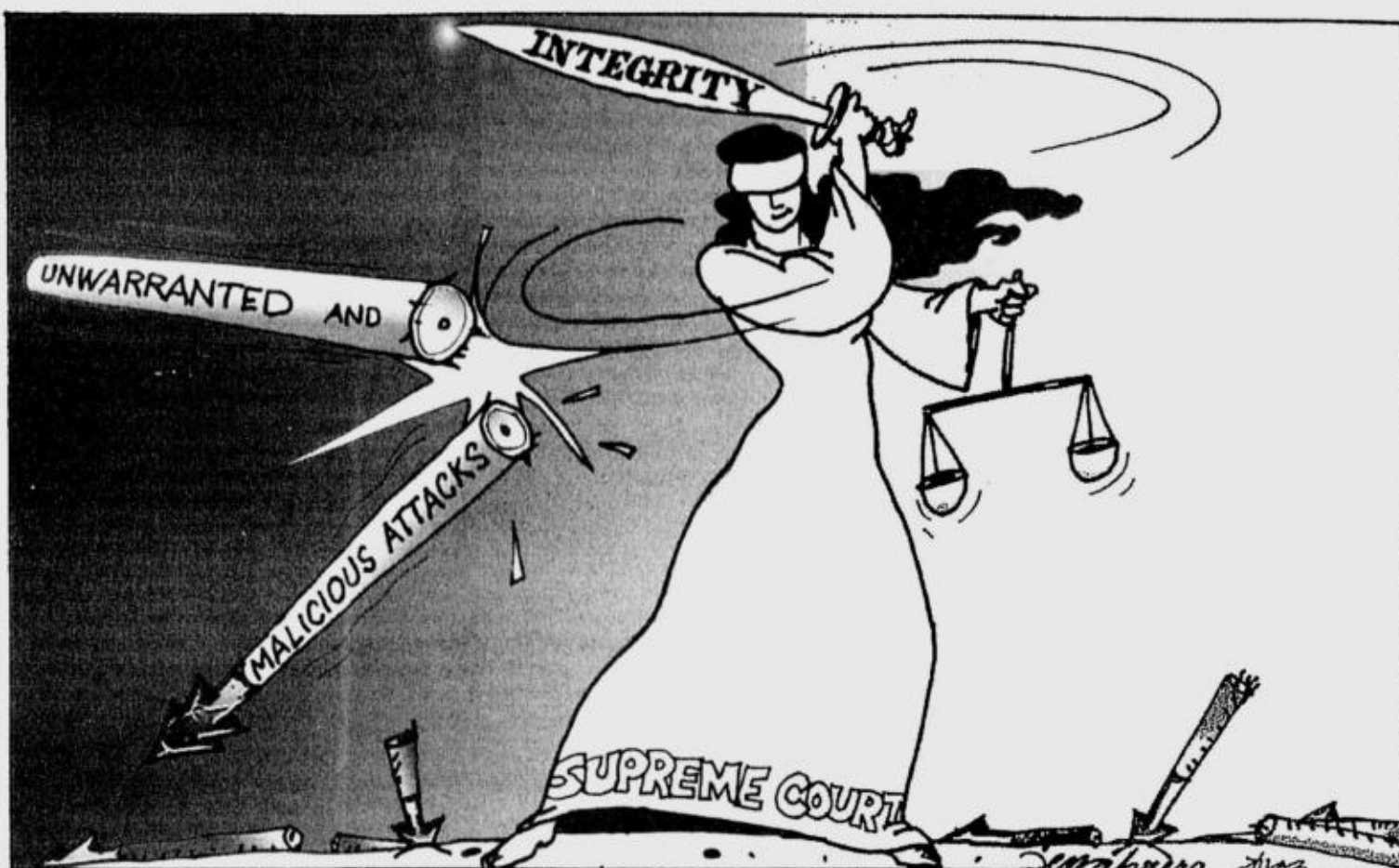
IF the pace of Anglo-American losses continues, the postwar period could cost more in human lives than the war itself. Yet, it is useless to draw parallels with Vietnam... That conflict should be remembered only insofar as it proved military superiority is not enough to impose a durable political model.

In Iraq, the Americans have not begun to build the promised democracy. To a large extent, the country the Americans have freed has proven itself hostile.

What's amazing is that beyond the military invasion, a technical success, a plan intended to deal with the most urgent problems has not been prepared. What amazes us is the gap between military efficiency and political intelligence.

Marines can defeat a dictator, but it's more difficult to install a pax americana.

La Repubblica (Rome)



Stop fake land titling syndicates!

THE GOVERNMENT should pay attention to the proliferating fake titling and land-grabbing syndicates that are destroying our Torrens title system. And I am not referring to the squatters but to the well-organized, well-financed and well-connected syndicates that are also using and victimizing the squatters.

These are syndicates who produce fake titles to large tracts of land and grab the land itself, then subdivide and sell them to gullible buyers. Most of the time, their victims are the ignorant urban poor, some of whom believe they are buying land with genuine titles. Others know the truth but since the prices are very cheap and the rewards are big if they win, they take the risk. They eventually lose, of course, but since the court processes take such a long time, decades and even whole lifetimes, it is as if the rightful property owner has lost interest because the impostor occupies his land by force and profits many times from it. Oftentimes, the land in question has been sold and resold many times, and by the time the legal owner wins in court, it is the last buyer who bears the loss. The original land-grabber will have already disappeared with his loot.

No less than Housing Secretary Michael Defensor has sounded the alarm against the proliferation of these fake land-titling gangs. Their favorite gimmick is to produce old Spanish titles because it is difficult to trace their origins. The courts are usually flooded, including the Supreme Court (as in the Maysilo Estate case) and they issue decisions favorable to the syndicates and make them very rich.

This has been going on for decades. It was for this reason that President Marcos invalidated by presidential decree old Spanish titles, including that for the notorious Don Mariano San Pedro Estate which supposedly encompasses several Central Luzon provinces, from Metro Manila to Quezon province. In spite of

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



that, many people are still victimized, who buy rights or pay rent to parcels of land.

A large share of the guilt is borne by the courts, which effectively make the syndicates win by merely being very slow in trying and deciding cases. Worse, they sometimes decide in favor of the syndicates because of ignorance or because of collusion and corruption. Government witnesses, such as those from the Bureau of Lands and the Land Registration Authority are also bribed by the syndicates simply not to appear in court. Without their testimony, the judges find it easy and convenient to decide in favor of the syndicates.

Even worse, courts sometimes order the issuance of different titles to different owners but to the same piece of property. Thus, the overlapping of titles—and thus, land disputes that can lead to violence—is becoming epidemic. When the case is elevated to the Supreme Court, it does not guarantee that the rightful owner would win. Because of the complexity of cases based mostly on documents, the justices, who are not infallible, sometimes make mistakes. The syndicate members run laughing all the way to the bank and the rightful owner is left crying.

That is why there is now a clamor to stop lower courts from ordering the issuance of land titles and overlapping titles. Leave that to just one—the Land Registration Authority, which is a semi-judicial body and is the expert in land registration. What's more, it has all the records for land titles, and does not need the

testimony of witnesses from the Bureau of Lands and other government agencies. All it has to do is check its own records. That would make land litigation much faster. And fast land litigation works against the fake land-titling syndicates that should discourage and, perhaps, eventually stop them.

But what if the corruption starts at the LRA itself, as what happened many years ago when the LRA chief himself developed a new racket: that was the consolidation of two or more titles and then subdividing the resulting title, and then consolidating and subdividing them again several times. With each procedure, the area is increased. In the end, the area covered by the newest titles are much bigger than those encompassed by all the original titles put together. This is usually done at shorelines and beside waterways and public forest and pasture lands where no private owners would complain.

That LRA chief was dismissed from the service but what's to prevent another one like him from taking over the LRA in the future?

Answer: It is easier to monitor just one agency than to monitor thousands of courts scattered throughout the archipelago.

KAPIHAN NOTES: Next Monday's guest at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) is Vice President Teofisto Guingona. The Vice President wants to be President starting next year and he would be asked about his chances of becoming one and what his plans are if he indeed becomes President.

TODAY'S JOKE: Patient asking doctor for advice to stop his insatiable desire for women: Doc, I can't control my desire for women. How can I stop it?

Doctor: That is normal. To stop it, devote your life to the Church and God and you will feel better.

Patient: But Doc, I'm already a priest.

Fetters

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



missionary vocation, and highly sensitive, many of them given to the arts and music? And who has the monumental virtue of not being "taken"?

The simple solution to it is to allow priests to marry. But it is a solution, as my friend adds wryly, that is also bound to devalue the priests' current attractiveness. Well, who says marriage doesn't have a price?

The same is true of the Church proscription against divorce. That is always justified by the maxim, "What God has put together, let no man rend asunder." But the conclusion "Let no man rend asunder" is valid only if the premise "What God has put together" is so as well. You look at many marriages, and you don't have to be an agnostic to question the divine intent, or sanction, in them. That is particularly so in this country where the Church also proscribes premarital sex under pain of sin. In the provinces particularly, that is the most compelling reason to marry, to have sex. Other than with the village prostitute—oh yes, there is that type too, along with the village idiot. That is a recipe for disaster. And coupled with a culture that deems wives as property and forbids people from interfering in "domestic squabbles," notwithstanding their scale of violence, it does produce disaster.

To try to persuade the wives in particular in those cases to keep to their husbands because they probably haven't tried enough is insane. It is a strange God, however He works in mysterious ways, that will claim authorship of this kind of togetherness. Unfortunately, God does not always send thunderbolts to rend things asunder. It is still left to man—or woman—to do that. The simple solution to it is divorce.

Are these cases where it is all right to aspire for the ideal even when it's not always, or even rarely, reached?

Not at all. An ideal is something that nurtures a human potential or capability and raises it to dizzying heights. The desire to achieve is a human potential and it is good to push it to its ideal form in heroic aspiration notwithstanding that it may not always be achieved. Preventing someone from loving another human being physically is not an ideal, it is a denial. Keeping two people together who have irreconcilable differences is not an ideal, it is an aberration. The result of holding to an ideal notwithstanding failure is a life well lived. The result of holding on to a denial or aberration notwithstanding achievement is a living hell.

Or since water will seek its own level anyway, hypocrisy. Of showing the unnatural, but prescribed, thing in public while indulging the natural, but illicit, thing in private. For priests, that means having a lover, or wife, or children anyway, but keeping them out of public view. For estranged couples, that means drifting apart anyway, with particularly baneful consequences for the wife. The husband can always entertain mistresses, the wife can only entertain lovers at her own risk. The risk is both physical violence and social censure if found out.

I don't recall now who I read last week as saying that the problem of "fallen" priests was really no problem in the past because people simply kept quiet about them out of resignation, tolerance, or acceptance. That is all very well, but that is also the source of one of our culture's greatest banes—our tendency to practice double standards. Of frowning on things in public while doing them in private. Of observing the ritual while forgetting the content. Of living a Christian life embracing the sacraments while living a real life breaking them.

Enforcing unnatural things will always produce unnatural results. What God has rend asunder, let no man put together.

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Will parallel lines ever meet?

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THIS month of July will see the 25th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), the theme of which will be "Addressing the Demographic Crisis in the Philippines." It will also see the semi-annual meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), which may or may not take up issues related to population growth and family size. The danger is that even if the CBCP does take up these issues, its discussion and that of NAST will proceed—as similar discussions have over the past 30 years and more—on parallel lines and with no dialogue between the proponents of different points of view.

A glance at the program for the NAST meeting gives support to this concern. The theme itself, by speaking of the "demographic crisis" already gives a "tilt" to the discussion. The choice of Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon to deliver the keynote address says something more; the senator is no specialist in demography but has publicly supported House Bill 4110, the "Explanatory Note" of which makes clear the intention to open the way to abortion. There are to be papers on the pressures which population growth imposes on resource generation, on natural resources such as air and water, on educational and health services, and on the economy as a whole. Also, papers on methods of contraception; but none, interestingly, on the natural family planning methods which are acceptable to the Catholic Church and which are being promoted by the Department of Health. And none on improving tax collection or eliminating corruption in order to provide resources for meeting the "crisis."

Some of those identified with the Church are equally one-sided in their approaches, as I experienced at a recent symposium which was intended to introduce the Standard Days Method (SDM)—a simplified method of natural family planning. Three or four women dominated the

"question period," not with questions about the SDM but with long emotional speeches, denying the reality of the population problem, bemoaning the effects of the pill on women's health and the effects of discussions such as ours on the morality of youth, and urging that instead of teaching the poor to limit their families we should teach them to vote for responsible and honest public officials. Whatever the purpose of these women, they effectively derailed discussion of SDM.

In response, I would have liked to point to the recent conclusions of a group of economic demographers and welfare economists, who previously had avoided offering firm conclusions on the relationship between population growth and poverty. After careful analysis of recent data, they agreed that in the present developing nations, population growth does have a significant negative effect on economic development; and moreover, that large family size impacts mainly on the poor. It increases competition for unskilled jobs within the society, and within the family for educational and health resources. Large families may provide a measure of security for parents in their old age, but it is security at a subsistence level as the burden of many children makes it more difficult to rise out of poverty. (Birdsall, Kelley, and Sinding Population Matters, Oxford University Press, 2001)

In 18 years of social-pastoral work at Payatas, I have become only too aware of the tragedy of large families and unwanted children among the poor. Just last week I heard of a 16-year-old who

had delivered an epileptic baby—apparently because she had taken some "medicine" in an unsuccessful effort to abort it. Over the years we have tried to meet the problem by a milk-feeding program for third-degree malnourished infants, and scholarship programs. We hesitated to move into natural family planning, thinking that it would have little acceptability among the husbands—whose cooperation is essential. But this year we decided to give it a try, among the parents of infants in the feeding program—riding on the latter. And thus far, the response has been remarkable: people hear about it by word of mouth and come asking to be included. Even the husbands are interested, saying that the pill is the reason their wives are always sick. Some even blame the pill for the fact that their wives have TB!

But still, with three trainers teaching the method, we are only scratching the surface. And this is where one would like to see the government and the Church abandon their mutual suspicions and enter into dialogue with a view to co-operation. And not for the sake of an abstract "national economy" but for the millions of desperately poor families who need help now in meeting their obligation not to have more children than they can support in decency. In the words of the Second Vatican Council on the "Christian responsibility" of parents:

"They [parents] will thoughtfully take into account both their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and those which may be foreseen. For this accounting they will reckon with both the material and the spiritual conditions of the times as well as of their state in life. Finally, they will consult the interests of the family group, of temporal society and of the Church herself."

On this, it seems to me, both history and the Lord of History can be unforgiving.

Let's talk cervical cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



was 14 and now shows signs of bearing precancerous lesions. She is all of 18.

The more partners a woman has, the more likely she is to develop cervical cancer, says Dr. Singson. Likewise, even if a woman is in a monogamous relationship, if her partner has numerous other partners, then the woman is still at high risk of developing cancer of the cervix. "Indications are that cervical cancer is in fact a sexually transmitted disease," Dr. Singson reveals.

This is because a positive correlation has been found between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus, also known as HPV, some types of which are spread mainly by sexual contact. "Research has shown that HPV is present in 99.7 percent of cervical cancers," says Dr. Singson. HPV infections, reminds Dr. Singson, "are among the most common STDs in most countries affecting up to 40 percent of women with a yearly incidence of 10-15 percent." Many HPV infections are what's known as "asymptomatic," that is, they don't show any signs or symptoms. Studies have also shown that infections are relatively short-lived, lasting usually eight to 10 months. "This indicates that our bodies are capable of clearing the virus," notes Dr. Singson, "which is why in women over 30 years old, the prevalence drops to 5-10 percent."

THE BAD news, though, is that 5-10 percent of women over 35 years old report persistent infections and, adds Dr. Singson, "it is in this group of women who are not able to clear the virus from their bodies that cancer in the cervix now has a chance to progress."

The really bad news is that there is no ready protection against HPV infection, save for celibacy and mutual monogamy, though a late sexual initiation (which would mean fewer sexual partners over time) would also help. Not even a condom can protect against the spread of the HPV, notes Dr. Singson, since warts can be found elsewhere in the genital area other than the penis or vagina.

Only lately (as recent as November last year, in fact) has a test been developed to detect the presence of the HPV DNA. The test, as described by Dr. Singson, entails taking cervical swabs, much like a Pap smear, using the brush from the Digene (the company that developed the test) Cervical Sampler. The next time you come to your OB-Gyn for a Pap smear, you can ask him or her to perform the HPV test as well.

"Many recent studies have shown that the combination of HPV DNA test and Pap smear improves the detection rate of pre-cancerous lesions of the cervix compared to Pap smear alone," writes Dr. Singson.

WHO are particularly at risk of developing cervical cancer? Women who started having sex before 18 years are at greater risk of acquiring the virus, as well as women who have had more than five sexual partners or have had partners who have had more than five sexual partners.

Dr. Singson adds that women who have had five vaginal (or "normal") births or more or had become pregnant before they were 18 are at increased risk of developing cervical cancer. "It is possible that the immune state during pregnancy allows the virus to exert changes in the DNA of the cervical cells, thus promoting cancer. It has also been found that smoking increases the risk of cervical cancer as well as having a partner who is not circumcised."

What's really unfair is that while a man may be a carrier of the HPV, the virus doesn't really have an effect on his health (except for the development of warts in some cases). It's women who risk dying from an HPV infection by way of cervical cancer. (Tomorrow: What you can do to protect yourself)

Names Filipinos prefer

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



TO DISTRACT myself during a traffic jam in Manila, I look at other cars and other drivers to see how they cope. The most common sight would be people listening to the radio or stereo, while others text or talk using their cellular phones. Nothing, however, beats the sight of the driver (always male) who whiles away the idle moments by picking his nose as if there is no tomorrow. Despite being modest as a people, I find no trace of shame in this display, no attempt to cover up. If traffic is really bad, you can observe how the excavated particles are rolled neatly into a disgusting little ball and discarded with a dexterous flick of the index finger. Now, that is one sight you will not see anywhere else in the world. This is truly Pinoy as the riddle I remember from the late Armando Malay, "*kinalikot ng kinalikot, saka nilapirot*." Lolo Mando bombarded me with hundreds of riddles when we had nothing better to talk about yet the only one I remember is *kinalikot*...

Another productive way of spending time in traffic would be to look at the names of taxicabs. One can try and guess the background of the taxi operator from the name of the cab. "Filamer" was someone who was named after "Fil-American" Friendship Day, July 4, definitely not the Filipino-American War. "Luzviminda," formerly a common Filipino name, is a contraction of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. "Agrifina" the name of the circle in the Luneta between the National Museum and the Department of Tourism, has nothing to do with ancient Roman history, it's the contraction of agriculture and finance, the departments once housed in those two American colonial buildings that border the circle.

Unfortunately, there are more cabs than the names of saints or names of relatives and lovers of the taxi operator resulting in taxicabs with outrageous names. The best one I have seen so far is called "Varicose Veins."

Someone should compile a list of Filipino names so that we have a lot of choices in the nam-

ing of a new generation of Filipinos or a new fleet of taxicabs. My father's family is quite large with each sibling being different. My parents gave us nicknames that all began with "A." Cousins from one branch of the family have names that all begin with "M," while another uncle had four daughters: Corito, Divina, Evita, Finina to make C-D-E-E A-B were reserved for sons they never got. One aunt was the 10th child and her husband also the 10th child, so they produced 10 children with names that all begin with "G." The joke in the family is that they had to stop at 10 because there was no name left for the 11th child except "Gago."

My youngest sister is expecting and wants a unique name that begins with "A" thus, we have taken to calling the poor unborn child "Azereje." I noticed that on my sister's bedside table was a small book, "4,000 Names for Baby" which reminded me of Bulletin 9 of the Bureau of Education (1915) being, "A list of Philippine Baptismal Names," compiled by E.E.

Schneider, who served as a teacher in the bureau and also a wood expert at the Bureau of Forestry, the list was meant to help schoolteachers with their class lists at the start of the school year. While the pamphlet might seem like a waste of taxpayers' money, one cannot imagine if such lists were compiled and printed to our time. We would have seen social history in the preferences in names and the slow shift from Spanish names of Catholic saints to English names. The first list compiled in 1905 had 1,100 names; the 1915 edi-

tion had 2,700 names not counting duplicates and the names that had both masculine and feminine forms.

Most names were drawn from the martyrology of saints. These were listed on calendars together with other liturgical feasts resulting in the following women's names: Angustia, Dolores, Guadalupe, Lourdes, Loreto, Nieves and Paz.

The whole life of Christ can be seen through names: Concepcion (Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary), Anunciacion, Visitacion, Natividad (Nativity), Presentacion, Purificacion, Epifania/ia, Resurreccion, Transfiguracion. The only thing missing here are the two events that begin with "C" namely Circumcision and Crucifixion. Then there are the virtues of faith, hope and charity—Fe, Esperanza, Caridad. The pious allusion has been lost over time just as the reference to Tolstoy is lost to people who watch the telenovela "Anna, Karen at Nina."

The 1915 list makes you think about a number of things. Are names different because of spelling? Is Bibiana the same as Viviana? Is this where my friend Vivien V. Visaya got her name? (Take note, it's pronounced Bibyan Bisaya and she is not from the Visayas.) Why the change in emphasis when you shift from masculine to feminine? Lucia changes stress in Lucio, or better still, Maria is not the same as Mario. Many familiar names dropped the "h" as in Adrian, Elena, Enrique (Henry in English). The double "ll" familiar in Spanish as in Guillermo and Llorente is dropped from names such as Braulio and Emilio. The only entry for "Y" is Yolanda because the spelling of names like Ysagani were placed under "I" as in Isagani.

The 1915 list reflects more than names, it shows the shift from Spanish to English, a long history and a reference to the times. A list of Filipino names is a source for social history.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

My two cents' worth

MUCH has already been said and written about the scandals besieging the Church today, which many claim have been brought about by its uncompromising stand on the issue of priestly celibacy. Pro and con, the matter has been discussed, dissected and examined meticulously by members of our society, whether Catholic or not. Media have contributed much to stir public interest and curiosity, and thus, literally, the subject has been the talk of the town. More so because we Filipinos love to feast on such scandals, just as much as we love feasting on telenovelas.

I am one among society's senior citizens who follow the news or the current events in our country. My day begins with my morning prayers, my cup of coffee and my reading of the newspapers. While I see to it that I keep abreast of all these goings-on in the lives of certain members of our clergy, I do not relish reading (or seeing on TV) these controversies and problems besetting Mother Church. I am saddened by them, I am bothered by them. I can do nothing but pray, and pray hard that all these will come to pass. I pray that the Church will remain strong and unfazed as Christ Himself has said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

On my own, I privately made a survey based on what I've seen, read or heard about the public's perception and views, and sadly it seems that those favoring the lifting of the vow of celibacy and allowing priests to marry are fast gaining ground. They say that even our Lord Himself did not impose this on His disciples. Yes, it is so, because at the time He called them, these men starting from St. Peter, were already married. But when He chose them, He said: "Come, follow Me," and they did so without reservation.

On the argument that if the priests were allowed to marry, there would no longer be sexual scandals, I volunteer my two cents' worth that that would be no guarantee of their remaining virtuous in their priestly life and functions. They can always say that they are only human, like the rest of us, and therefore, they may stray (again?), this time, being disloyal and abandoning not only their vows, but their spouse and children as well.

Which brings me to this scenario: If and when the Church allows priests to marry and raise families of their own, who would support them and their families? Who would shoulder their material needs? The present situation calls for parishioners and all the laity to support their pastors, but the commandment of the Church does not include supporting the priest's wife and children, too. Generally, members of the clergy have no other means of livelihood but that provided them by the diocese or religious order to which they belong. Funds for these come from contributions and donations of the laity. If the parish priest is married and has children, then the parishioners will have the added burden of feeding his wife and children, too. Imagine, a parishioner who could hardly make both ends meet for his own family will now contribute his share for the support of his parish priest's family!

Rather than have the vow of celibacy lifted, perhaps those priests who eventually feel they can no longer live a celibate life should leave the priesthood instead, before they take a wife and begot children. Perhaps they should earn their keep in other means of livelihood, some other honorable business or employment as ordinary breadwinners do, instead of insisting that they remain as priests so they can avail of an easy and secure life, being provided for by the Church through contributions and stipends from parishioners. There are some I know who are decent and respectable and have done so—left the priesthood when they fell in love, and engaged in another business which earned them sufficient income to support a family. They are commendable in this respect. I admire them for being honest to themselves.

Raymunda P. Ortega, 71, is a retired government employee and former president of the Pastoral Council of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Quezon City.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . . ?

Bribery case vs judge

ON MARCH 20, 2001, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested Judge Jaime Bautista inside his chambers at the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court Branch 75. The judge was allegedly caught in the act of receiving P5,000 in bribe money from Ranel Paruli, liaison officer of the Sierra Madre Transportation Co. Inc., in an entrapment operation.

The NBI acted on a complaint filed by Paruli, a day before the judge was apprehended. Paruli said the judge asked P10,000 in exchange for a favorable court order. SMTCI has a case pending before the sala of Bautista. The case resulted from a road accident in November 1996 involving one of SMTCI's buses. The judge, acting on Claudia Cadlum's and Rolando Millare's complaint for damages with preliminary attachment, ordered two of the company's buses to be brought to the court's custody.

On March 16, 2001, a Valenzuela City court sheriff allegedly approached Paruli and told him that he can settle the problem by giving P10,000 to the judge. Hoping for the lifting of the writ of preliminary attachment issued by the judge, Paruli went to the judge's residence in Angono, Rizal to personally hand over an initial payment of P5,000. The judge supposedly accepted the money.

Three days later, Paruli received a call from a court stenographer asking for the balance of P5,000. Thereafter, Paruli sought the assistance of the NBI and an entrapment operation was planned.

Following Bautista's arrest, the Office of the Ombudsman filed a case with the Sandiganbayan accusing him of direct bribery. The judge posted a P24,000 bail on March 21, 2001. A week later, the Supreme Court suspended him.

On Feb. 8, 2002, the judge filed a motion to dismiss the case before the Sandiganbayan. He said his constitutional right to a speedy trial has been violated when no arraignment has been conducted since the case was filed in March 2001.

An arraignment was set on July 15, 2002 but was cancelled due to the barangay election scheduled on the same day. Arraignment was reset to Sept. 18 but it was again postponed due to the unresolved motion to dismiss. The court denied the motion in an order issued last Oct. 24.

Bautista entered a "not guilty" plea when arraigned on Jan. 28, 2003. The prosecution filed its pre-trial brief on March 28.

Case status: The pre-trial set on May 20 was reset to July 14 due to lack of quorum. Bautista now lives with his nephew in Cavite after he sold his house in Angono to augment his finances.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department

Sweatshops do really exist here

DONALD Dee was right. ("We are not sweatshops," PDI, 7/6/03) Anvil Ensembles is one of those hot, dingy, small-time garment export firms whose revenue is insignificant compared with what the whole garment industry contributes. But he was wrong to say that Anvil was just one case and that garment firms are not sweatshops.

I am a researcher at the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and I know that there are hundreds of small factories like Anvil Ensembles that require workers to work long hours in substandard working conditions for meager wages. We have compiled hundreds of cases of violations of labor laws under our Anti-Sweatshop Campaign project. The case of Anvil was one of them. We exposed the Anvil case because we want to

send the message that sweatshops exist.

Dee's Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines (Congep) may be committed to compliance with the Worldwide Responsible Apparel Production (WRAP) principles. In fact, the signing of the agreement on April 28, 1999 marked the signatories' "commitment to compliance with the standards, from workers' health and safety to workers' right to join or form unions."

However, neither Dee's garment exporters nor those "insignificant Anvil-like factories" are free of violations. Sweatshop operation is anything that violates two or more labor standards. Indicators are pretty basic: less than minimum pay, non-payment of wages, locked exits, long working days, no breaks, etc. Dee should brush up on the concept of sweat-

shop operation and existing policies that are supposed to check it.

Yes, Mr. Dee, sweatshops exist. Some of them are in your backyard. Instead of hitting us and other groups that seek to expose sweatshop operations, work with us in pressuring the government to set up mechanisms for workers to seek the assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry's Garments and Textile Export Board (DTI-GTEB).

The GTEB is tasked to monitor garment exporters' compliance with WRAP, an international agreement of cooperation in promoting decent work and core labor standards. Obviously, it has yet to do its job.

—ANNE FOS,
Trade Union Congress of the
Philippines,
Masaya and Maharlika Streets,
Diliman, Quezon City



Economic, not military solutions

DENNIS M. Arroyo hit the nail right on the head when he said in his article that poverty is the root cause of the Mindanao conflict. (PDI, 6/30/03) Which means that the solution to the problem is not military but rather the pouring of economic benefits (with roads, bridges, employment opportunities, irrigation projects, etc.) to that ravaged land.

Allow me to correct Arroyo, who claims in his article that we have 77 provinces. The reality is we already have 79 provinces at present (there could be more in the future if we allow the gerrymandering plans of our politicians).

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
Marikina City

Should gov't 're-borrow' for Napocor?

I FIND it hard to fathom the wisdom behind Finance Secretary Juan Isidro Camacho's endorsement and the Monetary Board's approval of the government's plan to borrow \$500 million on Napocor's behalf. Although Napocor enjoys the government's sovereign guarantee, its bond offering still fetched a rate 100 basis points or one percent higher than the rate of Philippine sovereign debt papers. At that rate, Napocor decided to cancel its \$500-million bond float, which it needed to pay its maturing debts.

While indeed a straightforward Napocor borrowing would cost a lot more compared to the roundabout way of having the government borrow for Napocor, it has tremendous implications for our people and our economy. For one, even those who do not have electricity will be made to shoulder Napocor's debt as it effectively becomes part of the government's debt. For another, it bloats the gov-

ernment's already bloated foreign exchange liabilities.

A direct Napocor float will simply put the borrowing under the government's contingent liabilities. With Camacho's formula, the contingent liability is transformed into a real and actual national government liability. Over the medium and long term, this would impinge on our capacity to have a balanced budget and will definitely be a burden on our balance of payments.

I call on Camacho and the members of the Monetary Board to do some house-cleaning in Napocor first. They should streamline its operations, get rid of its bad eggs, file charges against its corrupt officials, conduct an inventory of its assets before putting our people's neck on the line for this institution.

—REP LORETTA ANN R. ROSALES,
Akbayan Party List,
House of Representatives,
Rm. 511, South Wing Building,
Quezon City

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US had no new Iraq arms proof before war

Rumsfeld says US warred on Iraq because it saw existing arms intel in new light

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Wednesday the United States did not go to war with Iraq because of dramatic new evidence of banned weapons but because it saw existing information on Iraqi arms programs in a new light after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"The coalition did not act in Iraq because we had discovered dramatic new evidence of Iraq's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction," Rumsfeld told the Senate armed services committee. "We acted because we saw the evidence in a dramatic new light—through the prism of our experience on 9-11."

Rumsfeld appeared before the

committee a day after the White House acknowledged that President George W. Bush's claim in his State of the Union speech that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Africa was based on forged information.

With US and British forces facing almost daily assaults, Rumsfeld also told the committee that talks were under way to increase

Nato involvement in Iraq peace-keeping efforts. He said he had "no objection" to Nato as an organization taking part, including troops from Germany and France that opposed the war.

While Bush justified the invasion to topple former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein largely on his alleged chemical and biological weapons and possible pursuit of nuclear weapons, such arms have not been found in the 10 weeks after the war.

Congressional committees are evaluating whether the administration may have used faulty or

exaggerated intelligence on Iraq's weapons to justify the war.

Several Democrats heightened calls for a full-scale investigation on whether intelligence was manipulated after the White House said it has learned that documents on an alleged attempt by Iraq to buy uranium from Niger were forged.

White House officials said information that the documents may have been forged had not reached top level policymakers before the public statements. Rumsfeld said he learned "within recent days" that the information

was bogus.

He defended the US intelligence throughout the Iraq conflict as "quite good" and said Iraq "had 12 years to conceal" weapons programs. "Uncovering those programs will take time," he said.

Rumsfeld also maintained that most of Iraq is safe after the war, with most of the recent attacks against US and British forces concentrated in Baghdad and surrounding areas.

But several Democrats pressed him on whether there was a need for reinforcements and com-

plained the that administration was not pushing the United Nations and Nato to take part in building military security in Iraq. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts said he was "concerned that we have the world's best trained soldiers serving as policemen in what seems to be a shooting gallery."

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona urged the administration to "give the American people a concrete plan" on the costs and duration of the US occupation in Iraq "even if this is a pessimistic scenario." **Reuters.**

Top British officials no longer believe WMD will be found—BBC

LONDON—The British Broadcasting Corp. said on Thursday senior figures "right at the top" of the London government no longer believed weapons of mass destruction would be uncovered in Iraq.

The report looks set to deepen divisions over whether the war was justified, as well as reignite a row between the British government and the state-funded BBC over Iraq coverage.

"They (senior ministers) do think there were weapons there... but the actual weapons, the tubs

of evil stuff, the rusting missiles... belief that they will actually be available, that is trickling away very fast," BBC political editor Andrew Marr said on television news.

"The best explanation going around at the moment is that some time shortly before the war Saddam Hussein destroyed them or hid them beyond discovery."

A Downing Street spokesperson poured scorn on the BBC report, saying the prime minister stood by his earlier comments.

"The BBC talks about senior

ministers, well Tony Blair said on Tuesday he believed the weapons would be found and it doesn't get much more senior than that," he said.

The issue of Iraqi weapons has sparked fierce debate on both sides of the Atlantic, but Blair, the main US ally in the war, has had to bare the brunt in recent weeks.

Opinion polls suggest the British public is no longer convinced of the case for war and members of parliament from all parties want proof of weapons to justify the campaign. **Reuters**

Hong Kong bus accident kills 21

HONGKONG—A double-decker bus carrying children and commuters collided with a truck and plunged off a Hong Kong expressway bridge on Thursday, killing 21 people in the territory's worst traffic accident in recent memory.

The bus driver was among the dead. Twenty passengers were injured, one of them a nine-year-old girl.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Bonnie Smith Yee-Jo told a news conference that the truck driver had been arrested and would be charged with dangerous driving.

After the collision, which took place shortly after dawn, the bus crashed through a bridge safety barricade on the busy Tuen Mun Road in the New Territories and tumbled 50 meters (160 ft) down a cliff.

Sobbing relatives of some of the dead visited the hillside in the evening to pray and burn paper offerings for the souls of the dead.

A young man, who would only be identified as Mr. Choi, said he tried repeatedly to contact his girlfriend, who travelled to work every day on that route, after he heard the news.

"I kept phoning her when I heard the news of the crash this morning, but got no answer. Only later did I know she had died," he said, choking with tears and burying his face in his hands.

The impact left part of the bus embedded in the earth and rescuers had to saw their way through the mangled wreckage before they could pull bodies out.

Several passengers died instantly. Of the 21 who died, 14 were aged between 24 and 66. The rest had yet to be identified, a government spokesperson said.

"My little niece saw the bus fall off the bridge and crash on to the hillside with a big bang," an elderly woman living near the bridge told reporters.

"She was crying and saying

many people would die." Among the 20 injured was a nine-year-old girl and 16 people aged between 24 and 54, the government spokesperson added. The rest of the injured had yet to be identified.

The territory's deeply unpopular leader, Tung Chee-hwa, who is often seen as out of touch with the people, rushed to the scene and ordered a full probe into the accident.

Police said skid marks indicated that the bus and the truck had collided and the bus was pushed off the highway.

"At some point both drivers applied their brakes, you can see from the scene the large skid marks," chief superintendent of police Austin Kerrigan told reporters.

Chan Cho Chak, managing director of bus company Kowloon Motor Bus Holdings, ruled out any problems with the vehicle. He said it was relatively new and had been serviced just a few days ago. **Reuters**

Ex-Guantanamo detainee demands \$10M in compensation from US for his ordeal

ISLAMABAD—The first Pakistani released from the US detention center at Guantanamo Bay is demanding \$10.4 million compensation from the US government for his ordeal, his lawyer said Thursday.

Mohammad Sagheer sent legal papers to the US Justice, Defense and State departments with copies to the International Red Cross and Pakistani interior ministry, his lawyer Ikram Chaudhry said.

"I have sent the legal notices through the US Embassy. And surely I will pursue it," Chaudhry said.

"If there is no response within a reasonable time I will take steps to institute legal proceedings either here or in the United States," he said.

Sagheer, who was arrested in neighboring Afghanistan, was flown back to Pakistan on Oct. 27 last year after several months in Guantanamo Bay's Camp X-Ray in Cuba over suspicions he had links with the al-Qaida terror network.

"Sagheer was innocent and he suffered a lot. During his detention he was subjected to physical

torture and mental harassment. He should be compensated by the US government which it promised when he was released."

The US authorities had told Sagheer they would compensate him but only gave him \$100, he said.

The 60-year-old father of 16 told AFP in November the first month of his detention at the naval base in Cuba was miserable.

Sagheer was arrested with scores of other Pakistanis by the pro-US Northern Alliance after the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001. He was later handed over to US forces in Afghanistan.

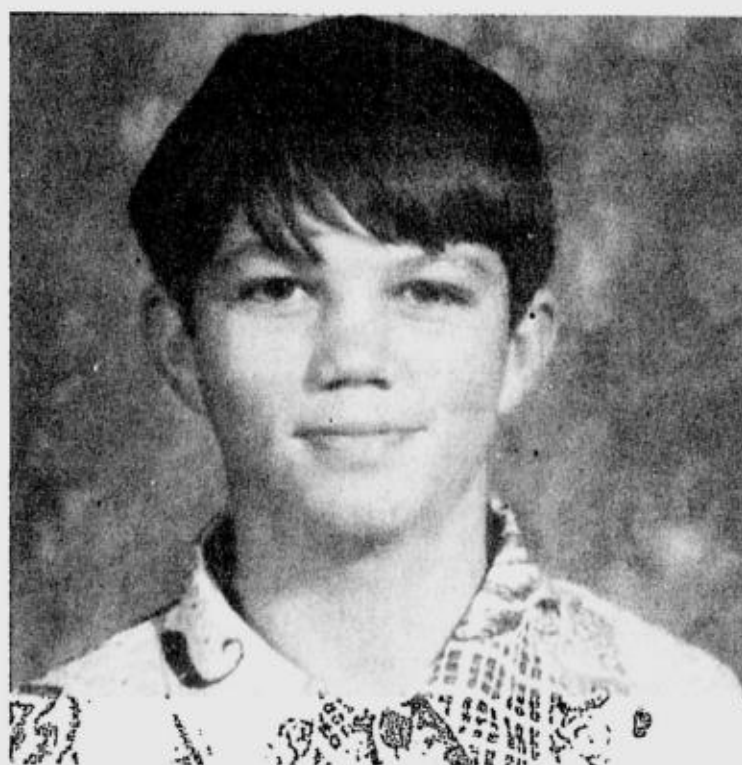
Sagheer maintains he had gone to the country merely to meet with a gathering of senior preachers.

About 600 captives from about 40 countries are being held at the naval base as unlawful combatants, who can be held without trial for the duration of the US-led war on terrorism.

US authorities released three more Pakistanis in May but Islamabad insists that most of the 54 remaining Pakistanis at Guantanamo Bay are innocent and is

seeking their release.

International rights organizations have frequently criticized the US for holding the prisoners of the Afghan war at its military base in Cuba. **AFP**



WALLIS in a 1979 file photo.

Man utters first words after 19 years in coma

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Arkansas—The last time Terry Wallis was conscious of the world around him, Ronald Reagan was president, Bill Clinton was the state governor, the Soviet Union was the United States' enemy and the World Trade Center still stood.

Thrown into a stupor after an auto accident in 1984, he recently spoke his first words in 19 years: "Mom. Pepsi. Milk."

Only in the last two weeks has the 39-year-old Wallis realized that Reagan no longer is president, answering "I don't know" when asked who is in office now.

"He's beginning to realize he's in a different place now," said his physician, Dr. James Zini. "We never thought he'd regain this kind of cognitive level."

Wallis and a friend were in a car on July 13, 1984, when it ran off the road. Both men were found beneath a bridge the next day. The friend died; Wallis was left a quadriplegic and fell into a coma for three months.

He soon emerged partially from the coma. But for 18 years, he could communicate only by blinking his eyes or grunting.

Then, on June 13, he called out "Mom" to his mother and later asked for a Pepsi. While home from the hospital for a weekend, he said he wanted milk with his breakfast. Since then, he has steadily increased

his vocabulary, and he is considered fully emerged from his stupor.

A speech therapist works with Wallis three days a week, and his doctor wants to give him more intensive physical therapy now that he can better comply with instructions. Nurses have been told to ask Wallis open-ended questions to help him develop answers beyond just "Yes" and "No."

Wallis has re-entered a world where so much was different. The World Trade Center, Pentagon and the Oklahoma City federal building were all attacked by terrorists. The Berlin Wall is gone, as is the Soviet Union. The Internet in 1984 was a loose affiliation of computers of interest only to academics.

Wallis' daughter, Amber, was 6 weeks old at the time of the accident. Wallis said it is his goal to walk for her. During a visit with her last month, he was able to tell her, "You're pretty" and "I love you." **AP**

No prisoner release, no truce— Hamas

GAZA—A US-backed Middle East peace plan was under new strain on Thursday after the main Palestinian militant group Hamas warned that a ceasefire would unravel unless Israel freed thousands of prisoners.

Adding to tensions over the prisoner issue, Palestinian witnesses said Israeli soldiers had detained three Palestinian boys playing outside a flashpoint Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

The truce was declared by Palestinian militant groups at the end of June, but many Palestinians think Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has failed to win enough back from Israel in return.

Up to 8,000 Palestinians, including minors, have been arrested since an uprising for independence began in September 2000.

Israel has said it will release hundreds of prisoners, but will not free anyone accused of being behind suicide bombings and ambush attacks.

However, Hamas founder and spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, warned on Wednesday militants could not stick to the truce unless jailed comrades were freed.

"Our patience has its limits. Israeli practices (including) the issue of the prisoners, are a red line that can never be bypassed in any way or form," Yassin said.

Israel dismissed conditions set by militant groups, saying it would deal only with Abbas' Palestinian Authority.

In a move aimed at strengthening Abbas' hand, the United States announced \$20 million in direct aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Yassin and other militant factions are currently holding talks with a visiting Egyptian security delegation trying to shore up the truce which has been rattled by violence this week. **Reuters**

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PAGCOR Chairman & CEO Efraim C. Genuino (center) is flanked by Board of Directors (from left) Danilo A. Gozo, (Ret.) Gen. Manuel A. Roxas, Philip G. Lo and (Ret.) Cmdr. Domingo H. Calajate.



Working to Win, Winning to Serve

PRESIDENT Arroyo's vision of building a truly Strong Republic finds fulfillment in the all-encompassing mission of the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) to uplift the economy and alleviate the lives of the less fortunate.

Through the years, PAGCOR has established itself as a dependable ally of the gov-

ernment in generating funds to support vital national programs related to health, education, tourism, sports and other concerns. The income PAGCOR raises from gaming has been rightfully used to build schools, upgrade hospitals, provide potable water systems, grant scholarships to poor but deserving students and give assistance to the country's remote and most depressed communities.

Twenty years after its creation through Presidential Decree 1869, PAGCOR reaches out to a greater number of poor Filipinos and braces for the bigger win in the competitive arena of international gaming. This is all embodied in the vision set by Chairman Efraim C. Genuino at the start of his term, for PAGCOR to become a "Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart."

Phenomenal income growth

In 2002, PAGCOR ranked second among the Philippines' top 1000 corporations in terms of net income. Its P20.21 billion total income for the year is the highest-ever posted in history and is 16 percent higher than the already phenomenal P17.46 billion garnered in 2001.

Chairman Genuino said PAGCOR's consistency in breaking its income records is a manifestation of the company's resolve to excel in its mandate and to be a strong, reliable ally of the government in economic progress and its poverty alleviation efforts.

As mandated by law, P12.19 billion or 60.32 percent of PAGCOR's 2002 total income was remitted to the National Government and other legal beneficiaries. The National Treasury received a hefty P9.83 billion representing the government's 50 percent share of PAGCOR's gross revenue, qualifying fee collections as well as taxes and duties paid to the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) was allotted P428.79 million to sustain the country's sports development program. The Board of Claims, an agency under the Department of Justice which compensates people wrongly accused and unjustly prosecuted, received P11.25 million. A total of P425.30 million was remitted to cities hosting PAGCOR casinos.

The company gave an initial P100 million to the Sports Benefits and Incentives Act which bestows cash and other non-monetary incentives to national athletes who brought honor to the country in international competitions. The Department of Energy's Gasoline Station Training and Loan Fund received P80 million while the National Endowment Fund for Children's Television got P5 million. The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program which will provide a comprehensive package of services, including daycare, to children up to six years received an initial amount of P24.3 million. Direct assistance to charity amounted to P2.286 million while the remaining balance of P1.105 billion was remitted to the President's Social Fund to facilitate President Arroyo's priority socio-civic and infrastructure projects for the poor.

Since the Genuino administration took over in 2001, PAGCOR's average annual growth rate has risen from 14 to 16 percent. "PAGCOR has shown extraordinary resilience in battling the harsh effects of the Asian economic crisis, the US-Iraq war and now the SARS scare. We attribute this to efficient management, good teamwork and the fact that we are committed to support President Arroyo all the way," Chairman Genuino said.

Poor flock to GMA medical missions

CLOSE to 36,000 indigent patients from various parts of Luzon enjoyed quality health care from PAGCOR beginning this year as part of the "Handog Kalusugan ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo" campaign.

So far, 27 Handog-Kalusugan ni PGMA medical-dental missions have already been held around the country, starting with the National Capital Region. Through the program, free consultations, treatment and medicines are provided to the poor, even those who have not seen a doctor in their lifetimes.

"PAGCOR feels the urgency of delivering quality healthcare services to the poor. We believe that only when people get access to these services can they become responsible and productive members of society," Chairman Genuino said.

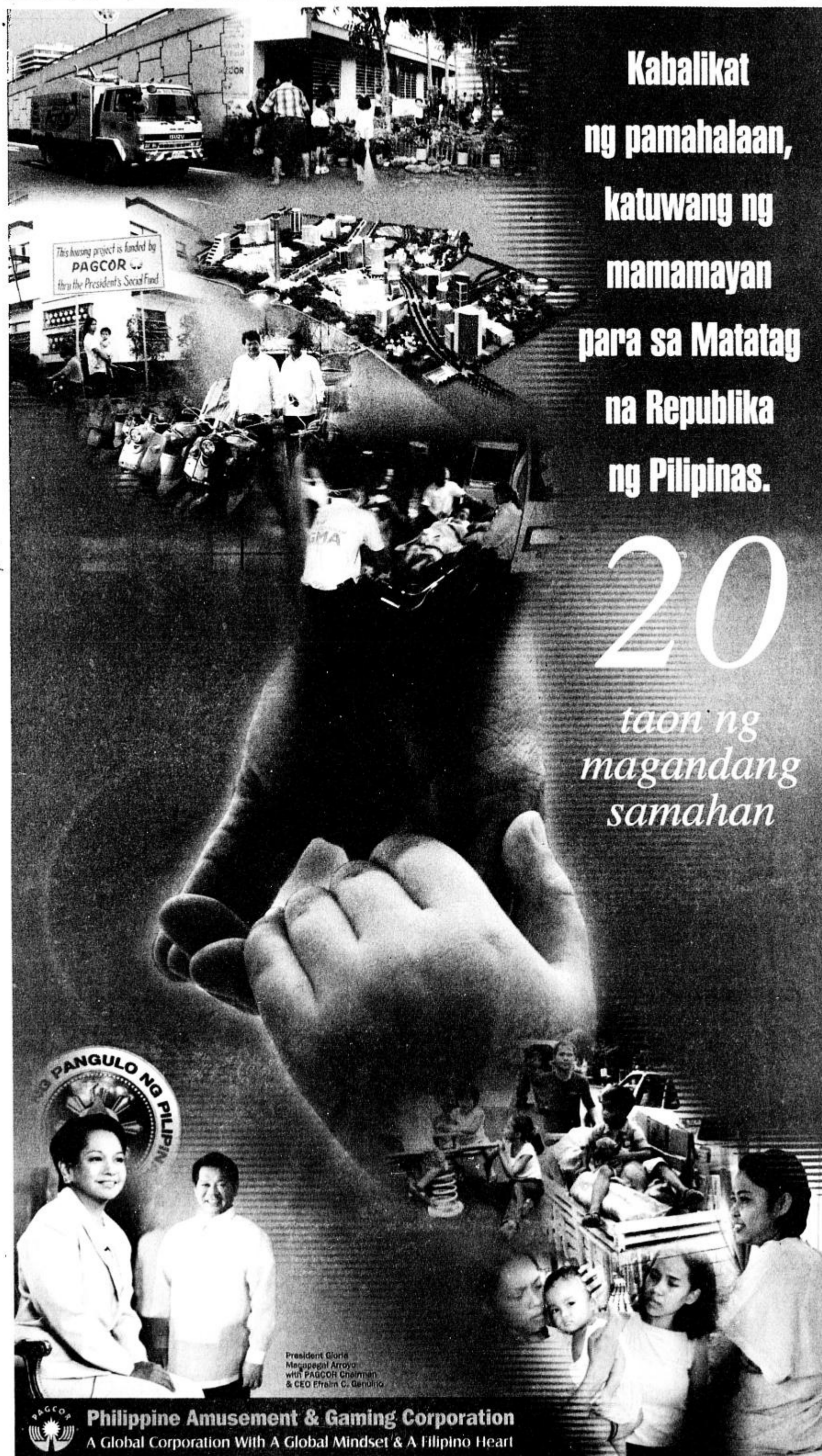
One of those benefited by the missions was 67-year old widow Florencia Unda of Tangos, Navotas who is suffering from diabetes and high-blood pressure.

Before Handog-Kalusugan visited their thickly-populated community, Aling Florencia resolved to surrender her fate to God, having nothing to spend for her medication. Thanks to the mission, she now has renewed faith that she will be able to cope with her ailments.

Please see Page A13

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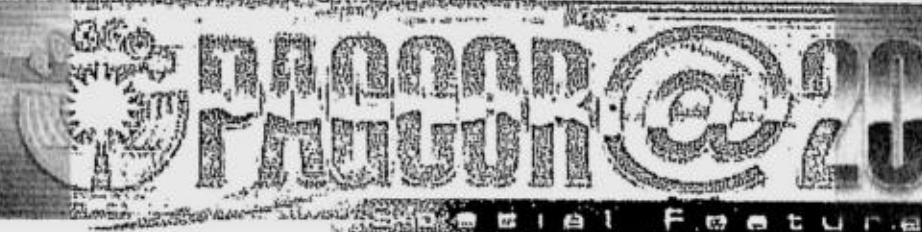
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President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with PAGCOR Chairman & CEO Efraim C. Genuino



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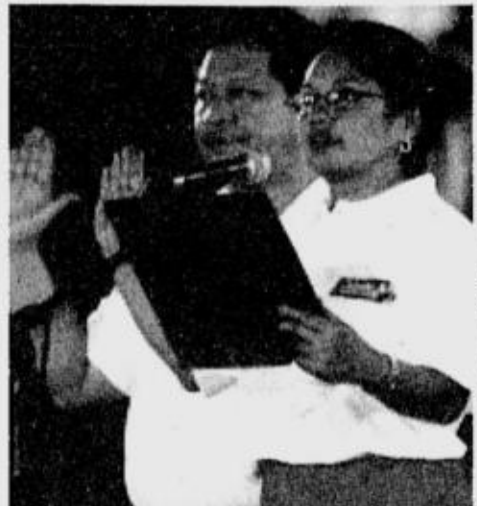
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Waging war vs drugs through BIDA

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, together with PAGCOR Chairman & CEO Efraim C. Genuino, deputize the new members of the Batang Iwas DrogA (BIDA) Club during the project's launch at the Quirino Grandstand last June 21.



PAGCOR strengthens its support to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out war against the rise of drug and substance abuse in the country with the launch of the Batang Iwas Droga (BIDA) project.

The state-owned gaming firm, in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), developed the Batang Iwas DrogA (BIDA) animated series to educate children between the ages of six and 12 years old on the hazardous effects of drugs. The series is about three young superheroes — Luzy, Victor, and Mindo — who use their special powers to do good and combat the evil forces of the cruel drug lord, Drol Kida.

During the BIDA launch held at the Quirino Grandstand last June 21, President Arroyo addressed the thousands of children present at the event and called on them to use their voice, no matter how small, to help defeat the drug menace in the country. In order to do this, she deputized them as members of the BIDA Club, making them official spokespersons of the government's war against illegal drugs.

President Arroyo also warned the children never to accept gifts such as candy, food, or money from strangers. She likewise instructed them to report to the authorities or their parents and teachers the presence of suspicious persons in their school or neighborhood.

PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Efraim C. Geniño, who joined the President in deputizing the new BIDA members, said "BIDA is about empowering the youth by making them aware of their part in the fight against drug abuse. Its aim is to educate the children entering into high school, where exposure to drugs normally occurs, in order to stop the problem before it begins," he added.

Aside from the animated TV series, other exciting events lined up for BIDA members include a mini-Olympics featuring traditional Filipino games such as *patintero* and *palo-sebo* and a campus tour around Metro Manila, all aimed at preaching the anti-drug abuse message.



One of PAGCOR's 911-type ambulances which was utilized during the M/V San Nicolas tragedy rescue operations.

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Gloria Macapagal Arroyo,**

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Winston F. Garcia
GSIS President/Gen. Manager

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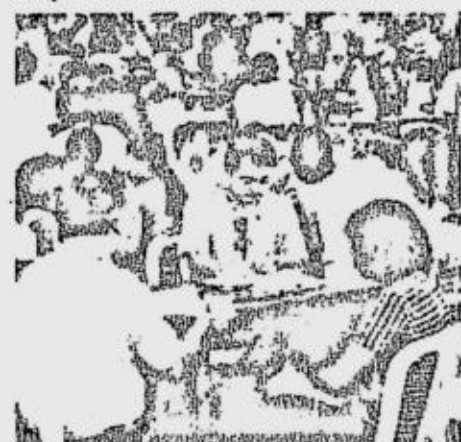


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People line up for free medical consultations and medicines during one of PAGCOR's medical and dental missions.

Dead twins arrive in Tehran, to be honored as martyrs

TEHRAN—Iranian twins Ladan and Laleh Bijani, joined in life, arrived in their homeland in two coffins on Thursday, achieving their dream of separation only in death.

In a sign of respect for the pair, officials said the twins would be honored in a ceremony later in the day dedicated to the 300 recently recovered bodies of Iranian troops who died in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The bodies will then be flown for burial at

their place of birth, the poor village of Firouzabad in the southern province of Fars.

Only around a dozen close friends and neither their natural nor adoptive parents were at the airport to meet the coffins, which were draped in a traditional Iranian nomadic red-patterned cloth with a bouquet of white flowers tied with a black ribbon.

"They were tired of being joined together," said Nooshin Mehran, who described herself

as the twins' best friend. "Now they are dead their biggest wish has come true. I don't regret not trying to change their minds." As she began to express her emotion, she broke down in uncontrollable sobbing.

Many Iranians had been glued to their television or radio sets during the failed marathon operation, with state media providing minute-by-minute updates on the progress of the surgery on the twins, whose unrelenting quest for separation had initially received only limited attention here.

A Muslim cleric said prayers over the coffins. A police band played a funeral march as the bodies were taken by ambulance to the coroner's office for a death certificate before being flown to southern Iran for burial.

"We didn't want to welcome them home this way," said Maryam Nofarsti with her twin sister Leyla, childhood friends of Laleh and Ladan. "It was very difficult for them, that's why they chose between life and death."

Ladan and Laleh died on Tuesday, 90 minutes apart, from severe blood loss in the final stages of a marathon operation to separate their joined brains that began on Sunday.

The two women were joined at the head, something that only occurs once in every two million live births. A separation operation had never been tried on adults.

But the operation has sparked conflicting sentiments, amid debate over whether it should have ever gone ahead.

The twins' adoptive family pointed out that in 1976, Iran's future revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had issued a fatwa, or religious edict, saying that "such an operation was not proper, because doctors had predicted one should be sacrificed for the other."

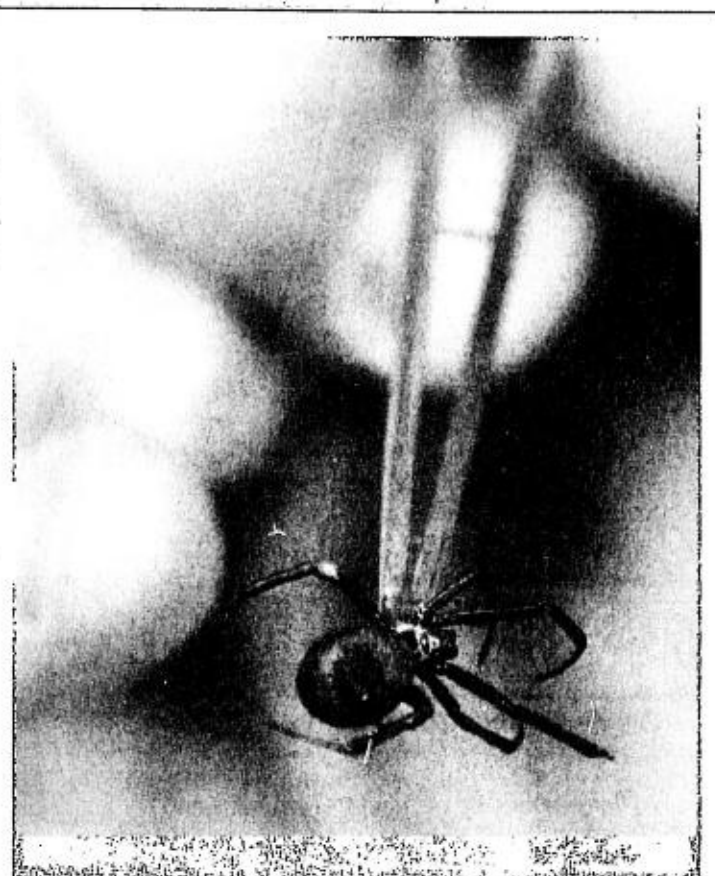
Khomeini's successor as supreme leader of the Islamic republic, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has conspicuously not given any comment after their deaths.

But reformist President Mohammad Khatami and other government officials have expressed their condolences, with the president—who is a mid-ranking cleric—praising the two sisters for their "courageous spirit."

In a message, he called on the Iranian nation to "praise the two sparrows for their high-spirited endurance and toleration of their difficult destiny and their determination to search for a happier future."

"Surrendering to divine fate is a sign of strong faith, profound knowledge and stable will. What happened to Laleh and Ladan is one page in the great book of destiny," he said.

The twins' determination to undergo the ill-fated surgery so they could live separate lives touched people around the world. *Reuters, AFP*



HUBBY'S BANE, BOON TO OTHER MALES

A Chilean scientist shows a black-widow spider at his laboratory in Temuco, 700 km south of Santiago, June 9. Chilean researchers say they aim to develop a new pill to combat impotence that would have the added bonus of being a male contraceptive, based on experiments with the venom of black-widow spiders. *REUTERS*

Bali bombers inspired by Bin Laden—witness

DENPASAR, Indonesia—The Bali bombers were inspired by an edict issued by Osama bin Laden, according to a witness statement read to an Indonesian court on Thursday.

Prosecutors in the trial of key Bali suspect Imam Samudra read the statement from another top suspect Wan Min bin Wan Mat, who is detained in Malaysia.

Wan Min said he believed the bombings were intended as a "warning for foreigners—Americans and Australians who are setting their feet in Bali and who are infidels and enemies of Islam." He said the blasts were carried out "as a fatwa (edict) issued by Osama bin Laden and this was based on sermons by JI leaders such as Hambali between 1999 and 2000."

Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, which is blamed for the Bali blasts and a string of other deadly attacks, is believed linked to Bin Laden's al-Qaida.

The bombing of two nightspots crowded with Western tourists killed 202 people from 21 countries last October. Police say JI staged the blasts to avenge injustices to Muslims worldwide.

Bin Laden was also linked to JI in testimony given last month at the Jakarta trial of JI's alleged leader Abu Bakar Bashir.

Witness Faiz Abu Bakar Bafana, who is detained in Singapore, said via a TV link that he and Bashir once discussed "a programme of Sheikh Osama." He did not elaborate.

Police say Wan Min was one of the masterminds of the Bali attack. Hambali is said to have been JI's operations chief until he was replaced by a man called Mukhlis, who is on trial separately in Bali.

Wan Min, in his statement, said no "special meeting" had ever been held to discuss the bombings. *AFP*

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Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESUMPTION OF REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND THE MEETINGS OF THE ELECTION REGISTRATION BOARDS; AND THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL REGISTRATION IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

X-----X

ABALOS, Sr., Benjamin S.
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.
LANTION, Ralph C.
SADAIN, Mehul K.
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.
TUASON, Jr., Florentino A.

Chairman
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

Promulgated: 10 July 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6248

WHEREAS, Comelec Resolution No. 5912 promulgated 15 January 2003 temporarily suspended, until further orders from the Commission, the (1) filing of applications for registration of voters and transfer of registration records; and (2) the processing of pending applications for registration of voters and transfer of registration records;

WHEREAS, Comelec Resolution No. 5912, likewise, temporarily suspended the quarterly meetings of the Election Registration Boards, including the January 20, 2003 meeting, until further notice;

WHEREAS, the Commission annulled the Lists of Voters in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao including Isabela City in the province of Basilan;

WHEREAS, in line with the Commission's mandate to preserve the integrity of the permanent list of voters and as an integral part of its modernization program;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code and other related laws, **RESOLVED** to order the resumption of the filing of applications for registration of voters and transfer of registration records; and the processing of pending applications for registration of voters and transfer of registration records effective August 01, 2003 until September 30, 2003; and the meetings of the Election Registration Boards.

RESOLVED, moreover, to conduct general registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) from July 25-30, 2003.

Let the Election and Barangay Affairs Department and Education and Information Department Implement this resolution.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
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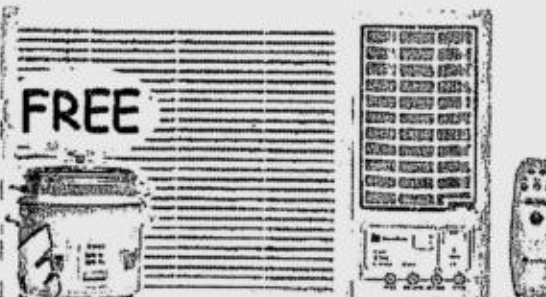


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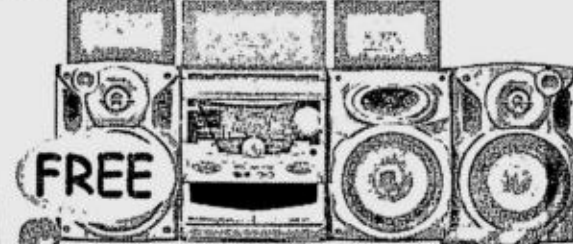


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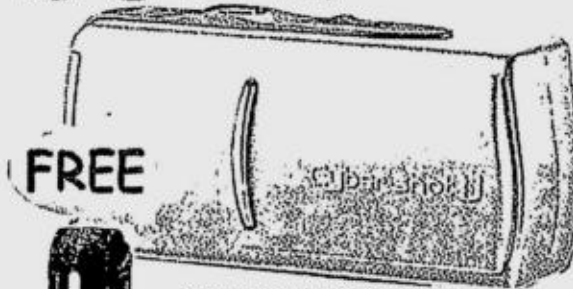
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Ping says Danding with administration, not opposition

BAGUIO CITY—Sen. Panfilo Lacson said businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. does not represent the opposition after his party, the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), bolted the Laban ng Masang Pilipino (Lamp), the administration coalition during the term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, to link up with the People Power Coalition.

Lacson, who addressed two separate conferences here on Wednesday, told reporters that the only obstruction to his election as opposition standard-bearer would be the candidacy of actor Fernando Poe Jr.

But Lacson said he remained the only opposition candidate to date who had openly declared his intention to join next year's presidential race.

He also said that although President Macapagal-Arroyo refused to confirm talks that she was reneging on her promise not to run in 2004, her "body language" revealed her ambitions.

Lacson said his party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, must define who comprises the united opposition.

"(The) NPC, as of now, is (with the) administration. Its coalition with Lakas CMD makes it an administration party. So kung hindi sila aalis sa coalition (so if they don't bolt the coalition), necessarily they're not opposition," he told reporters.

"So if Cojuangco goes for it

under (the) NPC in coalition with Lakas, hindi siya opposition candidate. Ganoon ang mathematics ko."

He added: "As of now, iyong LDP wala namang ibang emerging political personality na puwedeng tumayong standard-bearer (no political personality has emerged as a potential standard-bearer for the LDP). Sen. (Edgardo) Angara had already indicated he had withdrawn (from the 2004 presidential race). Unless, of course, Lakas coalesces with us."

But Lacson insisted he remained consistent about his offer of support for Cojuangco.

He said he would still support Cojuangco should the LDP and the united opposition choose to support the businessman in 2004.

Asked if Cojuangco's loyalties to both the administration and the opposition had reduced his chances with the united opposition, Lacson said: "No."

"It is always the basic right of any individual, provided he is not disqualified under the Constitution, to seek an elective post. We must give it to (Cojuangco) as we must give it to anybody who wants to serve in whatever capacity as an elected official," Lacson said.

Vincent Cabreja, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, with a report from Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Samar bishops oppose 2 mining agreements

By Blanche S. Rivera and Vicente S. Labro

STRUGGLING to block the operations of mining firms on Samar Island, local government officials and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday dropped a bombshell against former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

They said Alvarez signed two contracts with Bauxite Resources Inc. and Alumina Mining Corp. allowing them to mine in areas of Western Samar that have been declared a forest reserve by the Ramos administration.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER last night, Alvarez said the agreements "cover only the exploration activities to be conducted by the two mining companies and do not grant the right to mine."

Ultimately, he said, the exploration will confine the mining sites to much more limited, defined areas.

Benjamin Guingona, brother of Vice President Teofisto Guingona, is president of Bauxite Resources Inc. and a signatory to the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MP-SA) approved by Alvarez. Ramon Yap chairs Alumina Mining Corp.

Alvarez perfected the contracts shortly after Malacañang announced his removal from the



ALVAREZ: Midnight deal?

Department of Environment and Natural Resources and before the effectivity of the decision on Dec. 16, 2002.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, the former environment chief defended the approval of the MPSA as "a component of the government's thrust for sustainable minerals development, with the vision of infusing more investments in that sector, accelerate more jobs in the countryside, and fast-track development."

In a press briefing at the CBCP Manila office yesterday, the CBCP and local officials presented copies of the MPSA, which were signed by Alvarez on Dec. 4, 2002. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau approved the applications of the two mining firms.

"Everybody knows it was a midnight deal," said Calbiga Mayor Melchor Nacario, president of the League of mayors of

the Philippines-Samar.

The contracts allowed the "rational exploration, development and commercial utilization of certain bauxite and other associated mineral deposits existing within the contract area" to be conducted by Bauxite Resources Inc. and Alumina Mining Corp. on behalf of the government.

Bauxite is a raw material used in aluminum production and is extracted through open pit mining, which would require major clearing of forest areas.

The government and the mining firms would divide the total value of production and sale of minerals from the mining operations.

Bishop Leonardo Medroso of the Diocese of Borongan in Eastern Samar said the MPSA, the first two contracts to be approved by the DENR in the area, overlapped with territory that was declared by then President Fidel Ramos a forest reserve in 1996.

Medroso said that the same area also covered 119,197 has. of the proposed Samar Island National Park (SINP) in Western Samar, which is being endorsed by the DENR.

"This is very, very problematic. We are appealing to the President to rescind the contracts and declare the area a national park," he said.

On Wednesday, representatives of multisectoral groups met with some Cabinet officials in Malacañang to reiterate their appeal to

the President to immediately declare the SINP a protected area. They were led by Bishop Jose Palma of the Diocese of Calbayog (Samar), Bishop Angel Hobayan of the Diocese of Northern Samar, Bishop Medroso and the presidents of the mayors' league of Samar and Northern Samar.

The group asked the President to immediately rescind the MPSAs issued to the two companies and to sign a proclamation establishing the SINP, which was endorsed in March by Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun.

According to Gozun, Alvarez's successor, the department "has no legal basis to cancel" the MPSAs granted to the two mining firms.

The agreements, she said, were already found "valid" by the DENR legal division which had already reviewed the MPSAs upon her directive.

Gozun explained that the mining sites, while indeed they are within the Samar forest reserve declared by then President Ramos in 1996, are also within the "Bauxite Mineral Reservation" declared in 1977 by President Ferdinand Marcos through Presidential Proclamation 1690.

The Marcos proclamation has yet to be repealed, and therefore serves as the legal basis of the two MPSAs, she told the INQUIRER.

With reports from Volt Contreras in Manila and Marc Villavicencio, PDI Visayas Bureau

Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS Manila

IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE HEADS OF THE SIX (6) MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND EACH ACCREDITED CITIZENS' ARMS SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION THE NAMES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE MAY 10, 2004 ELECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT OF 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6247

WHEREAS, Congress passed Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as "The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003", granting upon qualified Filipinos abroad the right to participate in the democratic political exercises of the country;

WHEREAS, Section 23 of the said Act provides that all necessary and practicable measure shall be adopted to allow representation of the candidates, accredited major political parties, accredited citizens' arms and non-government organizations to assist, and intervene in appropriate cases, in all stages of the electoral exercise;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections promulgated on May 14, 2003 Resolution No. 6117, otherwise known as "The Rules and Regulations Implementing the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003";

WHEREAS, Article 11 (c) of Resolution No. 6117 provides that the heads of the six (6) major political parties as determined by the Commission in the immediately preceding national elections and each accredited citizens' arms shall submit to the Commission not later than May 31, 2003, the names of their respective representatives in each city or municipality;

WHEREAS, in view of multifarious activities which need to be undertaken by the Commission as required under Republic Act No. 9189 and Resolution No. 6117, the Commission is constrained to move the aforesaid date;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, pursuant to the authority vested in it by the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189, and other election laws, **RESOLVED** as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to reset the period within which the heads of the six (6) major political parties and each accredited citizens' arms shall submit to the Commission the names of their respective representatives in each city or municipality to July 30, 2003.

Let the Education and Information Department (EID) in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Absentee Voting implement this resolution.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
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RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

Lawyers warn cops on spray paint campaign

DAVAO CITY—The local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) has warned police authorities that spray-painting the houses of suspected drug pushers may not be within the bounds of the law and that they could face vandalism and trespassing charges.

Lawyer Carlos Zarate, IBP chapter president, issued the warning even as policemen were reportedly playing safe in their campaign against illegal drugs by painting "Alsa Droga Supporter" on the houses of suspected drug users and peddlers.

Zarate said the campaign could only be considered legal if there was consent. "But if the house owners refuse to allow policemen to spray-paint their structures and the police insist on doing it, that becomes illegal."

Members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the city police marked 30 houses in three barangays this week.

Senior Supt. Conrado Laza, city police chief, and Supt. Wilkins Villanueva, PDEA regional director, said the words being painted on the houses were carefully chosen so as not to violate a Supreme Court ruling.

Laza said their activity was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign to strengthen the fight against illegal drugs.

As of Wednesday noon, close to 200 suspected drug pushers and users have surrendered to different police stations and submitted themselves to physical and psychiatric tests at the grandstand of Camp Domingo Leonor.

The tests would determine if they should undergo treatment in rehabilitation centers or go for voluntary rehabilitation.

The PDEA has estimated that P1 million worth of illegal drugs were being peddled daily by drug traffickers.

A recent anti-drug operation in Digos City yielded more than P100,000 worth of shabu from one of the suspected 14 top shabu distributors in the region, Villanueva said.

He said three other distributors had already been arrested by PDEA agents.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Countdown for justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 424 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

ROUNDUP

'Kuratong' gang leader captured

BUTUAN CITY—Police on Tuesday arrested the alleged leader of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang after months of monitoring and surveillance. Senior Supt. Celso Curitana, chief of the Philippine National Police Regional Mobile Group, identified the suspect as Angelito Atupan, who was tagged mastermind in the robbery of First Consolidated Bank in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, in April. Curitana said Atupan yielded to policemen who raided his hideout in Barangay Babag, this city. "No resistance at all, but we really prepared for everything," he said. However, Atupan, 37, of Nasipit town, was released after posting P100,000 bail. The Kuratong Baleleng was believed to be behind the proliferation of fake-US dollars, illegal drugs and smuggled goods in Caraga, police said.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 fishers hurt in shooting

LEGAZPI CITY—Two fishermen in Pilar, Sorsogon were declared in critical condition after a group of still unidentified armed men fired at them while they were fishing in the sea. Rico and Melvin Perenia had serious bullet wounds in the head and belly, and were brought to the hospital. Their companion, Joey Malabas, reported the incident to police authorities.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rizal mayor's proclamation upheld

THE RIZAL regional trial court has affirmed the victory of Mayor Dionisio Donato "Dindo" Garciano of Baras, Rizal in the 2001 elections by a slim margin of 30 votes over Roberto Ferrera for lack of merit, according to a press statement sent by the mayor's office. Judge Adelina Calderon-Bargas of RTC Branch 78 upheld with finality Garciano's proclamation in dismissing the election protest filed by Ferrera for lack of merit, the statement said. The mayor thanked his townmates for the "trust and confidence" given to him.



GARCIANO

Worker kills 2 co-workers

BIÑAN, Laguna—Suspecting that his co-workers had something to do with the sudden disappearance of his son, a helper of a rice warehouse in Barangay San Antonio here ran amuck and killed of the workers and seriously wounded two others just after midnight Wednesday. Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera, provincial police director, identified the suspect as Marcelo Jimenez, 43, a native of Isabela and stay-in worker of a rice trading company. The fatalities were identified as Jomar Muñoz, 20, and Emilio Gallo, 19. During police interrogation, Jimenez admitted to killing the two, saying they beat up his son days before he disappeared. The wounded were identified as Nixon Ramos, 22, and his wife Leonora, 26.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Party-list solon lauds Yorac

LEGAZPI CITY—Party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales commended Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac for her strong resistance to the appointment of former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda in the San Miguel Corp. board. Rosales said she had already learned earlier that Maceda was being offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo a seat in the SMC board. Rosales, who was here for a visit, said she was very worried about the presidential bid of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, who, she added, has a lot of issues and cases to face. She said she would rather support former senator and education secretary Raul Roco than Cojuangco.

Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rice price, supply monitored

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has stepped up its monitoring of movements in the supply and price of rice during the lean months of July to September, the agency's administrator, Arthur Yap, said in a statement, even as he called on the public's help in the effort through its "Text NFA" Program 0917-6210917. Yap made the appeal following an inspection of Quinta and Central markets in Quiapo, Manila. He said the President had directed him to investigate findings of her own surprise inspection of a private rice warehouse in Valenzuela, whose personnel were re-bagging NFA rice. He said initial investigation confirmed irregularities that, he added, must now be cleared up by the warehouse owners.

3 dead, 28 hurt in Koronadal market bombing

From page A1

Fuentes said Miguel had received calls from unidentified people days before the explosions, warning of a bomb attack.

"This puzzles me. Every time there is a bomb explosion we will learn later that he (Mayor Miguel) had received a phone call about a planned bomb attack," Fuentes said. She did not elaborate.

She said she suspected that the people who carried out yesterday's bombing were also the ones involved in previous attacks.

The blast occurred despite tight security around the city, which marks a weeklong celebration of South Cotabato's anniversary starting today.

Cellophane girl

The dead girl, who sold cellophane bags, remained unidentified as of press time.

The two other fatalities were identified as Brasy Broa of Abreda Subdivision, who died while being rushed to the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, and Bai Masba Salikaya of Purok Kings, who died at the Koronadal Doctor's Clinic Hospital.

Dr. Conrado Prania, chief of the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, said shrapnel caused most of the injuries.

"There was a very loud explosion, and I suddenly saw many people down on the ground," Nely Aniversario, 76, told the Associated Press by telephone as she was being treated for shrapnel wounds on her right thigh.

"I felt the big impact myself and was injured, so I ran away from the scene and hid in a stall and found more people hiding there. Now, I can hardly hear," she said.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces spokesperson, initially said the bomb was left in a video game stall.



EXACT site where the bomb made its deadly mark at the public market of Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

VENJIE FIRMIALINO/POI MINDANAO BUREAU

"There are many children among the casualties, both among the dead and wounded," Lucero said.

"This is a sad day," he told reporters.

Local government officials said the number of wounded could be even higher as many of the injured were rushed to hospitals before any head count could be made.

Adding to the chaos at the scene were rumors of unexploded bombs in the area, and police were making an extensive search, using sniffer dogs.

MILF denial

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of

the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which the government had blamed for the May 10 explosion, denied that his group was behind the latest blast.

"We highly condemn this act. This is entirely unacceptable to the MILF," Kabalu told Agence France Presse by telephone.

"We have no reason to do something like this," he said, citing the current effort to restart the stalled peace process with the government.

"For now they are not implicating the MILF, but we know that at the back of their (military) mind they will point at us. We all know that when bombs explode anywhere in Mindanao, the MILF is the usual suspect. All incidents pertaining to bombing are always

pinpointed at us," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

Lucero said the bomb attack could be a tactic to divert attention from the military's ongoing operations against Abu Sayyaf bandits in Palimbang town in nearby Sultan Kudarat province.

Police officials said the explosive device was an improvised bomb left by unidentified suspects inside the public market.

Not derail peace talks

At the Palace, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye condemned the terroristic act, but expressed hope it wouldn't derail scheduled peace talks with the MILF.

"The President strongly con-

demns this terroristic act but we will try to go after the perpetrators of this incident," Bunye said. "We'll make sure that they are brought to justice, but at the same time, we should keep the doors open for those who genuinely desire peace in Mindanao."

Bunye said the incident was still under investigation and it was not yet clear who was involved.

He said it should not derail peace talks.

"We have made a significant headway, and we should not throw some obstacles to the pursuit of genuine peace for those who earnestly want to have peace in Mindanao," Bunye said.

In Cotabato City, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, warned that the Koronadal explosion might hinder the peace talks, which have been moving forward in the past few days.

Although authorities claimed they were still clueless as to what group might have carried out the bombing, Quevedo said it could be another effort to sabotage the peace talks.

The prelate said it was sad that civilians continued to suffer from violence.

"I strongly condemn the terrorist crime against innocent civilians. Condemn (efforts to) sabotage (the) peace efforts. (However), GRP and MILF must persevere in (their) peace moves (despite the latest attack)," Quevedo told the INQUIRER. With reports from TJ Burgonio; AP, AFP, Reuters



POLICE sketches of three suspects in the Koronadal market bombing.

JDV: Administration ticket out by August

By Carlito Pablo

SO who will lead the administration ticket in 2004: President Macapagal-Arroyo or businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco?

Wait until August, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

"We will make our preliminary choice in August," he said. "The national coalition is still in the process of looking for a standard-bearer and no choice can be made earlier than [that]."

In the meantime, De Venecia is proposing a "final meeting" between the President and Cojuangco, "so that they will decide who will be the candidate of the coalition."

The Speaker and the President co-chair the ruling Lakas-CMD, which is in alliance with Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition.

De Venecia said that as in Cojuangco's case, "there is an equally powerful pressure" for the President to seek reelection.

"The truth is, she has not

made up her mind," and as for Cojuangco who has started provincial sorties to feel the public pulse, "he himself has not made up his mind yet," De Venecia said.

In an apparent effort to please other supposed aspirants for the presidency, De Venecia said the names of other "potential candidates" would also be "processed" by the executive committee of the ruling People Power Coalition (PPC) "in the next few weeks."

The other names proposed are those of Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Juan Flavio, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and Raul Roco, a former education secretary and senator.

Roco belongs to the Aksyon Demokratiko party, which, along Lakas, Reporma and Promdi, is part of the PPC.

De Venecia said there were two coalitions "to maintain"—the PPC at the national level and the Sunshine Coalition, led by Lakas and NPC, at the House.

GMA aides urged to stop saying she's running

From page A1

Gentleman is not a member of Lakas."

Arroyo recently issued a press statement disclosing his conversation with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin. He quoted Sin as saying: "Tell Gloria I insist that she run."

In an interview with the INQUIRER Wednesday, Alvarez cited Arroyo's disclosure as one of the indications that Ms Macapagal had not closed the door on next year's presidential race.

Braganza said there was no point in speculating about a change in the President's position or in asking her to reiterate what she said on Dec. 30.

"She's not running, that's what she said. [If] you've heard any new statement saying she's running, please tell me because I'm not aware of it. If she's not running, she's out of the race. That's the logical conclusion, right?" Braganza said, adding:

"Several times she said this. Several times you [the media] met with her and asked the same question. When will it end?"

But asked why Ramos and other allies had been repeatedly saying that Ms Macapagal should make up her mind, Braganza said: "Because younger people like me believe that the President is the person to beat in 2004 if she runs."

Nonetheless, he said, all resolutions, text messages, endorsements and appeals for the President to run "will remain advice."

'Forcing her to run'

Administration Sen. Manuel Villar told reporters that the people close to Ms Macapagal were "forcing" her to reconsider her position by making statements that she might run after all.

"Obviously, the people around the President are not respecting her earlier statement ... and they are forcing her to run," he said.

He lamented that too many people were speaking for the President, who, he said, had remained firm in her position.

"All these statements from people close to her are confusing members of the administration party on her political plans," Villar said, adding:

"We don't know if these people are authorized to do this. I think we should listen to only one person on that issue, and that is the President of the Philippines."

Ms Macapagal's party mates and officials, including her chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao and adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales, have also made references to her running in 2004.

Even Senate President Franklin Drilon has said the fact that Ms Macapagal was not stopping them from airing such statements indicated that she was weighing her options in 2004.

Memorandum

Braganza said he wrote the President a memorandum informing her that it was time to convene the Lakas executive committee and "operationalize" the committees formed to select the party's candidates for president, vice president and senators.

The Lakas executive committee can only convene if the President is around, he said. Ms Macapagal and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. are co-chairs of the ruling party.

Braganza admitted that the

Lakas' selection process had been delayed "because all of us are here in Malacañang working."

He said the President should not be blamed for the party's inability to begin the selection.

"The delay is not a result of the President not changing her mind [about running]," he said.

Braganza said the preference of "die-hard" Lakas members was for its own to be chosen as the party standard-bearer. He said meeting with such hopefuls as Raul Roco and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, who are not Lakas members, was not in the party's "political calendar."

He said the party had its own hopefuls, including Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Juan Flavio.

Braganza also said several Cabinet officials who were being considered as senatorial candidates had high ratings, like Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

He said actor Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board, was also rating highly. With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Gringo gunning for president

From page A1

course with fellow opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has already declared his intention to run for president.

"The more choices, the better," Honasan said. He added that he talked to Lacson the other day and that the latter was aware of yesterday's affair. Honasan and Lacson belong to Class '71 of the Philippine Military Academy.

FPJ

Asked about rumors that he was teaming up with action king Fernando Poe Jr., Honasan said that he had sent Poe copies of his National Recovery Program. He hasn't received feedback from the actor.

The former Army colonel said he also talked with Poe more than a year ago but it had nothing to do with politics. Poe is expected to announce his political plans on his birthday on Aug. 20, according to Honasan.

Should he fail to win endorsement from the political opposi-

tion, "there is a possibility that I may run as an independent," Honasan said.

He made the announcement as a group of his supporters calling themselves the "Honasan for President Movement," or H4, asked him to run for president in 2004.

The group led by a certain Fred Vargas said it was endorsing Honasan for president because of the senator's National Recovery Program (NRP), which, it said, could address the economic, political and social crises the country was facing.

The senator said he hoped to be "one of the possible leaders of the NRP" be it as a presidential or vice presidential candidate in next year's election.

Honasan, who is thought to maintain a considerable following in the Armed Forces, entered politics in 1992 shortly after winning presidential pardon as part of a political settlement between the government and right-wing military coup plotters.

He is credited with leading a military uprising against the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos

amid a disputed snap presidential election in February 1986.

The plot was uncovered but Filipinos and the influential Catholic Church rallied behind the trapped military rebels, eventually forcing Marcos from power and sending him to exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

Marcos' election rival, Cory Aquino, became the President, but Honasan and his Reform the Armed Forces Movement later turned against her.

Seven deadly coup attempts were launched against Aquino. All were put down, the last with the help of the US Air Force. Honasan was later captured and detained on a military ship on Manila Bay. He escaped with all his guards.

Agenda

Asked what he could offer the country, he said: "Consistency, the willingness to fight and die for what I believe in, which I have proven not only once but over and over again."

He said he was running for president for precisely the same

reasons he led the coup attempts against Aquino, namely "electoral reforms, issue-oriented politics with a moral basis."

The senator urged the opposition to unite to enhance its chances of winning the presidential race. "I hope the opposition unites before the administration does," he said.

Honasan's bid for the presidency now places the opposition on the same boat with the administration, which may have more than two candidates, according to administration Sen. Manuel Villar.

With Lacson and Honasan in the picture and the possibility of Poe running for president too, Villar said there would be a three-way split in the opposition.

Villar earlier said that the ruling Lakas-People Power Coalition would be heading for a split if President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to run, as former Sen. Raul Roco was also expected to make a go for the presidency.

"So it looks like the 2004 election is getting to be merrier," Villar told reporters. With a report from AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 11, 2003

14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 46:1-7, 28-30
Gospel: Mt 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans."

"But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you."

"Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved."

"When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Commentary

Many Christians still suffer persecution in countries under professedly atheistic or anti-Christian regimes. Their loyalty to the faith is a witness to the strength that the Spirit gives. But most Christians do not suffer such systematic persecution. Yet, this is no reason to be oblivious. Persecution comes for us in different but no less virulent ways. We are pro-life and we are called anti-women. We take the side of the poor and we are activists. We preach chastity and we are passé. Sometimes simply being just and honest is so difficult because then we row against the current. We are tempted to adopt mentalities like, "everybody is doing it anyway" or "I'm not made to be a hero." Maybe we should be listening more to the Holy Spirit than to anybody else.

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Danding bid boosted, lambasted

From page A1

Lerias, daughter of Marcos-era Speaker Nicanor Yniguez and Cojuangco's personal secretary in 1992, said local officials in Southern Leyte had already

pledged to support Cojuangco should he decide to run for president in 2004.

But the Kilusang Mayo Uno said Cojuangco was deceiving the public by "masquerading" as pro-worker and a "good employer."

"As chief executive officer of San Miguel Corp., he and his minions are boasting that he can also superbly manage the affairs of government and promote the interests of all workers in the country," KMU deputy

secretary general William Merene said.

"This is a big lie. Just check how he treats his workers at San Miguel and other corporations that he owns and manages and you will know how cruel

and greedy he is," Merene, who is also president of Ilaw at Buklod ng Manggagawa or IBM, said.

The IBM is a federation of SMC labor unions.

Warehouses closed

Merene said Cojuangco ordered the closing down of three SMC warehouses, throwing 188 workers out of work.

The three warehouses are in Cubao, Caloocan and Pureza, Sta. Mesa.

According to the KMU, SMC equipment and inventory were brought out by management last Tuesday.

After the removal, the workers were told that the warehouses would be finally closed on July 14.

Merene also detailed other "crimes" of Cojuangco, including the forced retirement of 80 workers in the SMC Polo Brewery; the retrenchment of 28 workers of the Metal Closure Lithography Plant of SMC in Canlubang, Laguna; the illegal lockout of the Campo Carne plant which displaced 170 regular and 150 contractual workers; the illegal dismissal of 120 daily wage-earners and 100 contractual workers from the La Tondeña Distillery in Pangasinan; the mass termination of 117 regular and 300 contractual workers of Cosmos Bottling Corp. in Canlubang; and the mass termination of employees at the La Tondeña—now known as Ginebra San Miguel—plant in Cabuyao, Laguna.

"Danding's long list of crimes against SMC workers is proof enough that he is not fit to run for president. These are just the current sins he committed against the people who make him very rich and influential," Merene said.

Coco levy

A militant peasant group also took Cojuangco to task for his comments the other day about the controversial coconut levy fund.

If the coco levy fund belongs rightfully to farmers, as Cojuangco himself said, why isn't he letting go of it? And where, the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas asked, is the money now?

The INQUIRER on Thursday quoted Cojuangco as saying he had been unjustly accused of using the fund, now estimated to be worth more than P100 billion, to enrich himself.

"The money is not mine. It belongs to coconut farmers. I have never claimed it," he had said.

KMP chair Rafael Mariano noted that Cojuangco was just a "moribund landlord" when he started to serve as the administrator of the fund under Marcos. "The fund made Cojuangco what he is today," Mariano said.

Signature drive

The Southern Leyte signature drive was launched on Sunday, upon the request of NPC president Frisco E. San Juan.

San Juan told the governor that the signatures collected should be sent to NPC headquarters before submission to Cojuangco, the party founder.

The campaign asked Cojuangco to run for president and address the problems on national security, economy and peace and order.

Cojuangco has said he has not made up his mind about running for president. But Lerias told the INQUIRER that she received a call informing her that Cojuangco was "98 percent sure" of running for president.

Asked if the announcement came from Cojuangco himself, Lerias said it came from a top official of Lakas-CMD. Lerias, however, refused to name her caller.



SMOKING "presidentiable"
Danding Cojuangco at birthday celebration of Copa spokesperson Boy Saycon Tuesday night.

BOY CARRIDO

A top elective official here, who requested anonymity, said that if Cojuangco did run, there was a strong possibility that Lerias and Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo, who are political enemies, would run under Cojuangco's ticket.

The Philippine Basketball Association's four-time Most Valuable Player Ramon Fernandez, who was tapped by Saludo to run for governor against Lerias, would likely settle for vice governor instead.

Maasin-born Fernandez, who ran and lost for senator under Cojuangco in 1992, said he would formally announce his candidacy in August in time for Maasin's Charter Day and fiesta celebrations.

Fernandez said he was confident that if the business tycoon ran, he and Lerias would become allies.

Electioneering?

In Malacañang, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Hernani Braganza yesterday warned that potential candidates in the 2004 presidential elections who have embarked on provincial sorties around the country might be guilty of electioneering.

"Let me warn everybody that now is not the time to solicit votes. *Baka ma-electioneering po sila.* (They might be guilty of electioneering.) For support, maybe, but not votes."

Braganza said the rule book was clear on electioneering: "Do not campaign if it's not yet the campaign period."

But Braganza was quick to clarify that he was not referring to any specific individual, whether former Sen. Raul Roco and Cojuangco.

Braganza repeatedly told reporters that he did not specifically mention Cojuangco or his party in his comments about electioneering. "They are our coalition partners in the House of Representatives and we need their help in approving the budget. At the end of the day, the national budget is equivalent to national interest," Braganza said.

Meanwhile, administration Sen. Robert Barbers said Cojuangco may be the "most qualified candidate" for president given that President Macapagal had said she no longer intended to seek the presidency next year.

Barbers, who is on an official trip in the United States, said Filipino communities there were inclined to support either President Macapagal or Cojuangco.

"I have received reports that if ever GMA will not run most of the members of Lakas will go for Danding," he said in a statement. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Volt Contreras and Christine Avendaño*



A New Partnership with South East Asia



Europe and Asia: We share many of the same problems. Let's work together on the solutions.

By The Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten,
Member of the European Commission Responsible for External Relations

It's over ten years since a twist of political fate sent me to Hong Kong. At the time Asia seemed distant, exotic - a world away from my British home and my European culture. I learned a lot during my stay. I returned with a fascination for Asia's cultural diversity and economic dynamism, for the entrepreneurial talent of its people, and for the richness and variety of its political discourse.

My fascination with Asia is undimmed - but the region seems, perhaps, less remote. The whole world, indeed, has shrunk over the last decade. Commerce first made cousins of Europe and Asia. The challenges we face together at the start of the 21st century make us close as neighbours.

On both our continents, the dark side of globalisation, failing states, the relentless rise of international organised crime, trafficking, and the drugs trade pollute the ordinary lives of people. Terrorist groups spread their tentacles across borders and their attacks know no boundaries. Later this month I will be attending the Asia Europe (ASEM) meeting in Bali, only a short drive from the scene of last year's bombing, which killed not only Asians but also Australians and over 40 Europeans.

Europe is developing a new strategic concept to define our response to modern threats: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, failing states bred of poverty and bad governance, organised crime. The threats are not of the classic military variety, and neither are the solutions.

The European Union believes that by bringing together all the instruments at our disposal - from diplomacy, development funding and technical assistance, to increased co-operation and trade relations - we can tackle the root causes of instability and the new threats which face us.

This philosophy underpins the European Commission's latest thinking on our relationship with South East Asia, which (was adopted in Brussels this week and) which I shall be presenting at the Asia Europe meeting in Bali.

Regional stability is at the heart of our strategy. We believe that a strong ASEAN is the best guarantee of peace in the region. After all, regional integration in the EU has brought stability to a continent that for centuries has been more accustomed to war than to peace, and our experience may hold lessons for others. The EU will continue to assist any country that needs help in tackling **terrorism**, as well as supporting conflict prevention and conflict settlement.

The EU is also determined that **migration, people-trafficking, money laundering, organised crime and drugs smuggling** should be systematically incorporated into all our dialogues, at both regional and bilateral level. We are

ready to provide technical assistance in this area, if our Asian partners want it.

The **poverty** that leaves people vulnerable to these and other illegal activities will remain Europe's development priority in Asia: both for the €700 million that we contribute directly each year, and in the new aid programmes that we want to develop in co-operation with richer countries in the region. Poverty, crime and the risk of failing states form a vicious circle. Together with our Asian partners, we must do what we can to break it.

The EU is ASEAN's third largest trading partner. Both sides would benefit from the Trans-regional EU-ASEAN Trade (TREATI) Initiative, which we are proposing. This would bring down some of the remaining barriers to trade between us, and within the region. If it is successful, we could begin to give serious consideration to entering into a **Free Trade Agreement**, once the Doha Development Agenda negotiations are complete. It is a plan, which could boost prosperity and help to overcome some of the wealth disparities that can undermine stability.

The entrenchment of **Democracy and Human Rights** is central to our approach. In Asia, you have your own champions in that struggle. Aung Sang Suu Kyi sets an example to the whole world. Her treatment at the hands of the junta in Myanmar is an international outrage. We are encouraged by the bold stance that ASEAN has taken on this issue, as a group. Human rights concern us all. The EU therefore wants to make these issues 'essential elements' in all new agreements - bilateral or regional - that we may sign in the future.

Like Japan, Europe has cut ties with Myanmar, and the EU has imposed sanctions. But we must not allow this to curb the development of our relationship with the region.

We are making a new offer to countries in the region. The EU will negotiate new contractual bilateral relationships with any state that so wishes, to make possible deeper co-operation. At the same time, we should aim to get more mileage out of existing regional fora. We should be clearer about what we want to do together in Asia Europe meetings (ASEM) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to ensure their work does not overlap, and that international conferences bring real results.

Life entails risk. We can never hope to eradicate all threats to our security. But we can attempt to make the world a safer and a happier place. In Bali, let us honour the memory of those whose lives were lost to terrorism last year by taking practical steps to that end. Together, Asia and Europe can make a difference.

The European Union (EU) numbers 15 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over a period of enlargement of 40 years, they have, together, built a zone of peace, stability, progress and solidarity. The EU is a model for overcoming conflict and promoting reconciliation through close co-operation to achieve common goals, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the EU is not focused on itself. Its ambition is to share its achievements and values with countries beyond its borders.

The European Commission (EC) is the EU's executive body.

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ngayo'y matutupad!*

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Marriage tames geniuses

From page A1

Satoshi Kanazawa, a psychologist at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, compiled a database of the biographies of 280 great scientists, noting their age at the time when they made their greatest work.

The data remarkably concur with the brutal observation made by Albert Einstein, who wrote in 1942: "A person who has not made his great contribution to science before the age of 30 will never do so."

"Scientific productivity indeed fades with age," Kanazawa says. "Two-thirds (of all scientists) will have made their most significant contributions before their mid-30s."

But, regardless of age, the great minds who married virtually kissed goodbye to making any

further glorious additions to their curriculum vitae.

Within five years of making their nuptial vows, nearly a quarter of married scientists had made their last significant contribution to history's Hall of Fame.

"Scientists rather quickly desist (from their careers) after their marriage, while unmarried scientists continue to make great scientific contributions later in their lives," says Kanazawa.

The energy of youth and the dampening effect of marriage, he adds, are also remarkably similar among geniuses in music, painting and writing—as well as in criminal activity.

Previous studies have documented that delinquents are overwhelmingly male, and usually start out on the road to crime in their teens.

But those who marry well

subsequently stop committing crime, whereas criminals at the same age who remain unmarried tend to continue their unlawful careers.

Kanazawa suggests "a single psychological mechanism" is responsible for this—the competitive edge among young men to fight for glory and gain the attention of women.

That craving drives the all-important male hormone, testosterone.

After a man settles down, the testosterone level falls, as does his creative output, Kanazawa theorizes.

The study appears in the August issue of the *Journal of Research in Personality*, published by the Elsevier group. The British weekly *New Scientist* reports on it in its upcoming issue on Saturday. **AFP**

Meralco execs getting millions in salaries

From page A1

said the company's statement was "misinterpreted."

"The amount's account for the salaries and bonuses of the company's top five officers. No one received any of the amounts reported," Francisco said.

On page 11 of the Meralco statement is the heading "executive compensations." Under the heading is a column listing the names and titles. Manuel M. Lopez was listed as chair and chief executive; Jesus P. Francisco, president and chief operating officer; Daniel D. Tagaza, senior vice president;

and Rafael L. Andrada and Leonisa C. de la Llana, vice presidents.

To the right of the names were columns listing the years 2000 to 2003 with the salaries, bonuses and their total. The data in question all appeared along the rows of Francisco's and Tagaza's names.

"If you compute that, it may even turn out that we are underpaid," Francisco said in jest.

By Francisco's reckoning, each of the top five officers earned an average of P3.7 million in 2002 or about P300,000 a month.

But Tapang said in a separate interview that, even if Francis-

co was right, the salaries of top Meralco executives were still very high.

"Meralco owes residential consumers P91 million in refund money each month. The salaries of top Meralco executives easily cover 20 percent of that," Tapang said. "Who will now believe that Meralco has no money for the refund?"

The Supreme Court ordered the utility firm to refund the excess charges, estimated at about P30 billion, that it collected from its more than 3 million customers from 1994 to May 2003. Meralco began refunding small users last month.



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In Payatas, reparation but no reckoning

By Gil Cabacungan and Amy Remo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday offered to negotiate with private landowners of Payatas, Quezon City to buy out the dumpsite property and parcel it out to its current residents.

But the offer rings hollow to the relatives of those who died in the garbage landslide three years ago yesterday.

"We are here to condole with you; land distribution here is a must and that is what we are working on," said the President who attended a morning mass yesterday at the open basketball court of Phase 2, Lupang Pangako in Payatas to commemorate the July 10, 2000 Payatas tragedy.

According to Nita Ocenar, whose relatives were among those who were killed in the landslide, the assistance the President offered was appreciated, but it was not enough.

"It would be best if she worked on delivering justice to those who were killed in the landslide," Ocenar said in Filipino.

The President yesterday ordered concerned officials to negotiate with owners of big parcels of land in Payatas with an eye on acquiring and distributing the properties to residents who were mostly victims of the landslide.

Over 200 people were killed on July 10, 2000 when garbage stacked 50 feet high came crashing down on the houses of residents in the area.

According to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, there are now 582 scholars under the July 10 Movement.

The children receive an educational assistance of P10,000 yearly.

Government has also built up livelihood centers and credit co-operatives in the community, she said.

The Payatas dumpsite is scheduled to be closed next year under Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Act.

Vendors have nightmares of capture

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

FOR BACLARAN vendors, the game of cat-and-mouse they daily get to play with the authorities has become the stuff of nightmares.

As the vendors yesterday were busy putting up their makeshift stalls, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority personnel equipped with a crane and backhoe appeared in Baclaran, Parañaque City. The MMDA team of six people arrived with six policemen from the Regional Special Action Unit.

The vendors panicked and immediately fled the south-bound sidewalk of Roxas Boulevard. Residents on the other side of a canal, which runs parallel to the boulevard, watched closely.

When they learned that the MMDA team came for a flood control project, and not for a clearing operation, the vendors slowly crept back to the sidewalk.

One of them was Emma Perez, 38, who sold mineral water and buko juice. She recalled last Friday's incident when a bystander, Poon Baceron, was killed by a stray bullet during a clash between an MMDA team and vendors.

Perez told the INQUIRER that when the escorts of the MMDA team started firing warning shots last week, she jumped in the canal and hid.

"Everyday, we are bothered by the thought of capture, but we carry on," Perez said in Filipino.

She explained that if they were not able to sell their wares for the day, they "simply would not eat."

Perez said that if she only had the money, she would go back to Zamboanga del Sur.

Perez earns up to P200 every day. She earns more on Sundays, when a lot of people go to Baclaran Church.

"We are earning a living respectfully," she said. "Why do (the authorities) punish us?"

Hariboy Amiroi sells pirated VCDs. But yesterday, he did not join the other vendors in setting up wares on the sidewalk. He was wary of the policemen.

Amiroi has been having nightmares of policemen chasing him, seizing his pirated VCDs.

He laughed as he told the INQUIRER how the MMDA terrified him even in sleep.

"I think I'm beginning to get used to the idea of getting caught," Amiroi said in Filipino.

Just like in his dreams, Amiroi said the vendors, most of whom live in the compound parallel to the sidewalk, would jump in the dirty canal during clearing operations. Last Friday, he hid deep in the murky water.

He said that three other persons were wounded by stray bullets fired in Friday's incident.

"We had to fight," Amiroi said as he explained why the vendors had to hurl stones at the MMDA men that Friday. "The MMDA personnel were pushing around some of the women. Why do they do that to women?"

He added that they hurt the most when they lose their earnings, which happens every time the MMDA conducts operations.

Amiroi usually earns up to P1000 a day. But yesterday, he said he would be very lucky to earn P100.

Now, vendors are used to playing hide and seek with the MMDA, Amiroi said.

He added the vendors had developed ways to outwit their chasers.

Amiroi said that when vendors display their products, they put them above a cloth, which they could wrap and carry with them easily when the MMDA arrives.

Like Perez, Amiroi said he would go back to Mindanao if only he had the means.

"Sa probinsiya, walang MMDA (In the province, there is no MMDA)," he said.



CLARITA Jarduque, who lost seven of her relatives, including her children, in the Payatas tragedy three years, still mourns her loss. On her lap is a newspaper with the pictures of her dead children.

JOAN BONDOC

Driver, MMDA man slug it out; enforcers get arnis training

By Luige del Puerto and Leila Salaverria

TRAFFIC enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority are now being trained in the Filipino martial art of "arnis."

But that has not stopped truck driver Noel Rabasta from trying to knock the lights out of MMDA traffic enforcer Rowel Gacho, 20, police said yesterday.

Gacho flagged down the ten-wheel truck Rabasta was driving at around 8:30 p.m. on Ortigas corner Luluza Avenues in Pasig City, police said.

According to MMDA rules, trucks are banned from the roads

from 5 to 9 a.m. and from 5 to 9 p.m.

Gacho accosted Rabasta, 33, of Quezon City, and asked for his driver's license. But the driver refused and claimed it was already 10 p.m. and that the truck ban was over. A heated argument ensued, police said.

Rabasta then challenged the MMDA officer to a fist fight, and the two slugged it out for a few minutes, police said.

Rabasta then tried to flee in his truck when other MMDA enforcers approached. But he was cornered by responding policemen.

The truck driver is now facing charges of assaulting a person in

authority, the police said.

Yesterday, the MMDA's Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that 60 enforcers had already finished their arnis training, which began last month and was conducted by a group of arnis experts.

A second batch of enforcers are set to undergo the same training.

"The training is meant to build up the traffic enforcers' self-confidence," Vergel de Dios told the INQUIRER.

He explained that enforcers would more likely run after traffic rule violators, even the arrogant ones, if they would be armed with the means to defend themselves.



The traffic director also pointed out that enforcers get into arguments with motorists "four out of five times." So, in case any of the apprehended drivers get aggressive, the MMDA men won't be at a disadvantage, he said.

Vergel de Dios added that even bus conductors sometimes go after MMDA enforcers.

Vergel de Dios also said enforcers would be able to utilize their arnis skills by using their "batuta" or night sticks.

While members of the first batch consisted of male enforcers, Vergel de Dios said women enforcers would undergo the same training as well.

METROBRIEFS

5 die in 24 hours

FIVE people died in 24 hours of violence in Quezon City starting Wednesday until yesterday. The killings claimed the lives Marilou Constantino, 32, of Bacoor, Cavite; Merly Lorenzo, 41, of 86 Manga St., Pag-asa, Quezon City; and Luzviminda Golindano, 46, of Pampanga St., Payatas, Quezon City. Constantino was walking near Visayas Avenue, Barangay Batasan, at about 2:00 p.m. when a suspect shot her at close range. Lorenzo was sitting outside her house at around 4:20 p.m. when a certain "Ostad" shot her in the head. Golindano's body was discovered at 12:30 a.m. along Masbate Street, Payatas. It bore multiple stab wounds. Meanwhile, Arnold Madarumog, 32, of Payatas B, QC, was stabbed dead by an unidentified man at about 6 p.m. near his house. Romulo Gaesa, 38, a garbage collector of Philcoa, Quezon City, was picking trash in front of the Botanical Gardens at around 9:40 p.m. the other night when a suspect stabbed him repeatedly.

Alcun Papa

Illegal recruiter

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) last week arrested an illegal recruiter who defrauded prospective overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) of some P300,000. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday identified the suspect as Atamante Ragadio, 55, of 1722 Road 5, Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila. Large-scale illegal recruitment charges were filed against Ragadio following his arrest in an entrapment operation. The suspect allegedly promised his victims jobs as janitors in a London hospital and collected P80,000 from job seekers.

Margaux Ortiz

Taguig robbery

HOURS after National Capital Region Police Office deputy director Reynaldo Velasco warned of an intensified drive against plateless and stolen vehicles, four robbers took away P80,000 in Taguig and fled in a car without license plates. The suspects on Wednesday afternoon robbed P50,000 from Don-don Mostrales, a store owner, and P30,000 from Reginaldo Otilano, a Coca-Cola dealer. A police report said that Otilano delivered cases of soft drinks to the Mostrales General Merchandising, at 379 Garden Lloyd Palar Village, Bicutan, Taguig. At about 4:40 p.m., while the two were finishing the delivery and settling their accounts, the suspects, armed with handguns, suddenly appeared and announced a robbery. The suspects fled in a maroon Toyota Corolla that had no license plates.

Edson Tandoc

LTO hot keys

THE LAND Transportation Office is now one text away. The agency yesterday launched the TXT LTO 2920 hotline, allowing the public to simply text in their inquiries, suggestions and complaints. According to Grace Mampin, administration chief of the LTO, this project would enable the agency to provide a better public service. One only has to type in LTO (space) (the message) and send it to 2920. This serves both Globe Telecom and Smart Communications prepaid and line subscribers.

Amy Remo

NPD launches charm offensive

By Tarra Quismundo

EXPECT to see cops making friends with you soon.

The Northern Police District will begin today the 100-day transformation program which seeks to change the bad public image of the police.

The nationwide program, which was launched last May by the Directorate for Police Community Relations in Camp Crame, is going to be implemented for the first time in the police district, according to NPD Deputy Chief for Operations Genesis Tolejano.

"We would like the police to be closer to the communities, to encourage cooperation among

them," Tolejano said.

He said that effective crime-fighting is impossible without the trust of the civilians.

The program, which is just one of the several image-improvement programs the national police had implemented, was thought of because of the deteriorating image of the police.

"The people seems to have lost respect for the police since lawmen have been involved in crimes," Tolejano said.

One of the highlights of the program, which will run until mid-October this year, is the immersion of cops in barangays.

"They are required to make at least 10 new friends a day," he

Vicencio's Elusive drug 'big fish' caught after 10 years

From page A22

Vicencio could not be reached for comment.

But Gerry Gonzales, city information officer, told the INQUIRER that the mayor could not grant something he was not authorized to give.

"How can the mayor give something which had not been appropriated by the city council?" Gonzales said.

But lawyer Melvin Cuevas, counsel of Vice Mayor Mark Allan Jay Yambao, said the city council had nothing to do with the issue.

"The initiative should come from (Vicencio)" Cuevas said.

From page A22

by an Ilocos Sur judge in 1994.

According to NBI Anti-Drug Task Force Commander Ruel Lasala, the bureau received information last month that Chua often went to the Ding-Ho Seafood Restaurant in Subic.

Informants revealed that Chua had assumed the name of Tsai Jung-Shui and was the president of Zone Swan Intl. Inc., a company engaged in the importation of mushrooms with business address at the Subic Free Port Zone, Lasala added.

said. "From there, they would make a network of friends in the communities."

The program targets rookies up to policemen who have been in the service for five years.

"We would like to revive a service-oriented police," Tolejano said.

The program involves reorientation of policemen in terms of attitudes and values to improve their performance as law enforcers.

A female police officer noted the dire need of the police for a change in public image.

"It's hard to be trying to enforce laws when people do not trust and respect you," she said.

When accosted by NBI agents, Chua even attempted to bribe the arresting officers with P5 million for his freedom, Wycoco said.

The Ilocos Sur jail guard who was assigned to Chua's detention cell in 1989 and the judge who sentenced the Taiwanese identified Chua as the same convicted Taiwanese national.

NBI fingerprint experts also confirmed Chua's identity, officials said.

Chua has been handed over to the National Bilibid Prisons to serve his sentence.

Pura Kalaw kids told they can finish HS

By Amy Remo

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. yesterday assured Pura V. Kalaw High School students that they would get to finish their education.

Belmonte said that although the high school in Project 4, Quezon City would be phased out as planned, it would come after all the students have graduated from the school.

"No classes shall be disrupted during the phase out process," City Schools Division Supt. Victoria Fuentes said. "Parents have nothing to worry about. Teachers would not be pulled before the phaseout."

Fuentes said that the division had given the school at least two more years for the 400 students to graduate. To date, only second, third and fourth year high school students are accommodated.

With the looming closure of Pura high school, Fuentes said incoming high school students could enroll at Jose P. Laurel High School, which is located right across Kalaw.

Fuentes added that there would be no classroom congestion at Laurel High School, despite the additional students expected to transfer from Kalaw High.

FRIDAY rated Prime nights 7:00PM	The Pretender Michael T. Weiss is Jarod, a hero who can assume any identity and fight for justice. 7:00PM	Just For Laughs The world's funniest comedians and pranksters come together in a night of fun. 8:00PM	Dharma & Greg Jenna Elfman and Thomas Gibson play television's wackiest odd couple. 8:30PM	Dead Zone From Stephen King's bestseller comes the man with the power to see the truth. 9:00PM	TV Greats on Friday Mr. 'Pure Energy' Gary Valenciano delivers one of his best performances ever. HITS ONSTAGE a limited engagement only 10:30PM
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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Vicencio's never ending woes

Malabon health workers file new charges against mayor



VICENCIO

By Tina Santos

THERE seems to be no end to the problems besetting Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio.

Last week, 14 city health workers led by Billy Goco and Eva Marie Ronquillo filed a five-page complaint before the Office of the President accusing him of "dishonesty, oppression, misconduct in office and dereliction of duty."

The complaint came even as the

mayor still awaits the verdict on another case against him involving the alleged anomalous purchase of a resettlement site for city rail dwellers.

It has been only seven months since he returned to office after a 90-day suspension for another graft case.

In their complaint, the health workers claimed that Vicencio failed to give them their pay and benefits as provided for by law.

According to them, Vicencio "blatantly and wantonly reneged on his

obligation" by violating Section 39 of RA 7305 or the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.

"Other benefits that would have accrued to us through the passage of the Salary Standardization Law were also denied from us," they said.

They added that Vicencio had been brushing off their demands by saying the matter was still being studied as the city was having financial difficulties.

VICENCIO'S/A21



HOPE AND GLORY

A resident of Sitio Lupang Pangako in Barangay Payatas welcomes President Macapagal-Arroyo during yesterday's memorial on the Payatas tragedy of 2000. Story on Page A 21.

JOAN BONDOC

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ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

Elusive 'big fish' caught after 10 years

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A "BIG FISH," at last.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday announced the arrest of Taiwanese drug lord Frank Chua, also known as Tsai Jung-Shui and Tsai Pan-Yin.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Chua, whom he described as a "big fish" in the illegal drug trade, had been a fugitive for 10 years.

"His (Chua's) arrest is a big point in favor of the nationwide anti-drug campaign," Wycoco told reporters.

Chua was arrested inside the Ding-Ho restaurant in Subic last Friday.

According to an investigation report, Chua arrived in the country on August 10, 1989, with three other Taiwanese nationals—James Feng, Tu Chun Wung and Ai Wu Sun.

NBI agents said Chua and his companions' bags yielded 54 plastic bags of high-grade methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu weighing 58 kilos and worth P116 million at the time.

The Taiwanese suspects however escaped from their Ilocos Sur detention cell in 1990, months after being charged for bringing in illegal drugs into the country, officials said.

Officials added that Chua and his accomplices were sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment

ELUSIVE/A21

Singer, 3 others in near tragedy on QC highway

By Alcuin Papa

FOLK singer Noel Cabangon and three others were slightly injured when they figured in a smash-up along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

According to the report of SPO1 Reynaldo Patag of the Central Police District Traffic Sector 5, the accident occurred at about 3:00 a.m. near the entrance of the Don Antonio Heights village.

Cabangon was on-board his Honda Civic (XDZ-684) and travelling in the area when he figured in a vehicular accident with another vehicle driven by Stevenson Malapira, 30, a staff member of Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson.

Malapira was with two companions identified as Dominador Arce and Mariano Valdez. While Cabangon and Malapira were settling the matter of the accident on the side of the road, a Nissan Patrol (BBU-528) driven by Dr. Anastacio Dayrit, suddenly appeared and smashed into the two stalled vehicles.

Fortunately, Cabangon and Malapira saw the oncoming vehicle and they managed to jump out of the way. They were slightly injured.

Meanwhile, Arce and Valdez, who chose to stay inside Malapira's car, also suffered minor injuries.

Dayrit told traffic police that he did not see the two stalled vehicles because there was no early warning device to warn oncoming motorists.

Visibility at the area was also blamed after motorists and pedestrians complained of the lack of lighting in that part of the highway.

Traffic police are still investigating the accident to determine who is liable for the accident as the two men were treated for their injuries.



CABANGON

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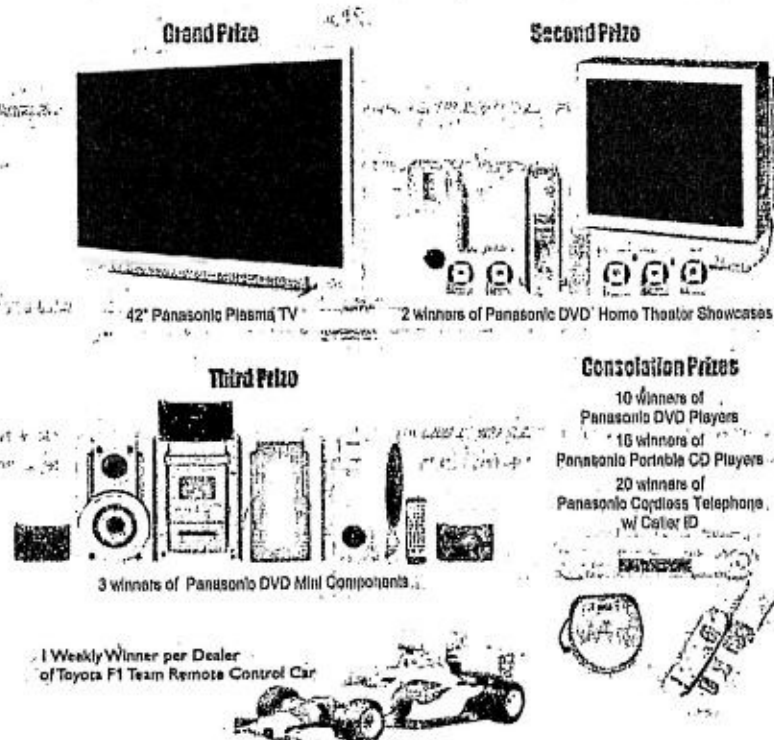
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WHAT'S INSIDE



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PSC out of 2005 SEAG organizing committee

But gov't agency will prepare athletes, assures Dayrit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will play as big a role in this year's Southeast Asian Games as in 2005 when the Philippines hosts the biennial sportsfest for the third time.

This is what Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit said he would assure PSC chair Eric Buhain when they meet today to clarify the agency's status and participation in the 2005 Philippine Southeast Asian Games.

"I just want to reiterate that the PSC will play a big role in the Vietnam as well as in the 2005 (Manila) SEA Games," the POC chief told the INQUIRER over the phone. "In 2005, the PSC will be the lead agency in preparing the Philippine team while the Philsoc (Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee) takes care of the Games itself."

The meeting is the second between the country's top sports officials since ending their feud over the composition and funding of the RP contingent to the Vietnam SEAG this December through the intercession of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

There are reports that the meeting was set to appease the PSC after it was taken out of the Philsoc which has been reconstituted with just POC officials as members to fast-track the preparation for the country's third SEAG hosting.

The PSC was only given a slot in the Philippine SEA Games Advisory Group, which is tasked to coordinate with and help the Philsoc. The Advisory Group is composed of Cabinet

members led by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

"In fact, we are thinking of naming Secretary Romulo as the honorary chair of the Philsoc," said Dayrit. "There shouldn't be any intrigues because it was the Office of the President which told us that these Cabinet members are prohibited from holding another position in organizations like the Philsoc."

The Philsoc used to be composed of government representatives headed by the Executive Secretary. Officials from the Department of Finance, Department of Tourism and the PSC were in the Philsoc until the POC executive board recently reconstituted it as a private enterprise managed directly by the Olympic body.

As in the first two SEAG here in 1981 and 1991, the organizing committee, which is Philsoc in this case, will handle the marketing and staging of the competitions with the PSC taking care of preparing the RP athletes and competition venues.

"They (the PSC) will be in charge of the construction or renovation of facilities or purchase of equipment to be used in the Games. The POC will be taking care of the Games preparation, the PSC and the NSAs the Team preparation," said Dayrit.

The decision to reconstitute the



BUHAIN

Philsoc reportedly stemmed from the delays it suffered due to the failure of Cabinet secretaries to attend meetings because of their hectic schedules. The old Philsoc just had two meetings since it was formed in February.

Dayrit said the new Philsoc will be incorporated with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a private, non-stock, non-profit organization with seven members of the Board of Trustees nominated by the POC.

Dayrit will be the concurrent president, while POC chair Robert Aven-tajado, first vice president Steve Hontiveros, second vice president Claudio Altura and IOC representative Frank Elizalde as members. Shooting association president Art Macapagal was also appointed as representative from the private sector, alongside weightlifting chief,



DAYRIT

Rep Monico Puentevella, in his capacity as an NSA head.

Dayrit added that the POC has already finalized the 2005 SEAG logo and mascot which depicts the endangered tarsier, the adoption of the slogan "Ilabas ang Gilas," the appointment of a marketing firm, and the organization of the SEAG turnover committee to be headed by Tourism Director and former PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carrión.

Philsoc has also scheduled the first SEAG Federation meeting in Manila either on March 4 or 5 next year.

When the country last hosted the Games in 1991, then PSC chair Cecil Hechanova was appointed vice chair of the Manila SEAG Organizing Committee or Mansoc along with the late Francisco Almeda, who was then the POC secretary general.

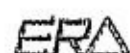
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Sexual assault shock hits Kobe's 'Clean Guy' image

NEW YORK—With his captivating smile and wholesomely hip persona that appeals to teens on the playground and millionaires in the front row, Kobe Bryant has established himself as one of the top marketable athletes of his era.

That image, however, is in jeopardy following a 19-year-old woman's accusation that Bryant sexually assaulted her. He hasn't been charged, but the allegation alone raises questions about the NBA star's marketability—for now and the future.

It's an untimely blow for the Los Angeles Lakers' guard, who just last month signed a multimillion-dollar sneaker deal with Nike to go with contracts he already has with Sprite, McDonald's and Spalding.

"They haven't charged him yet and people are already tearing down his personality," media buyer Tom DeCabin said.

In a worst-case scenario, Bryant could lose up to \$150 million in potential earn-



BRYANT

ings, estimates Bob Williams of Burns Sports and Celebrities Inc. Last fall, Williams' firm commissioned a poll that listed Bryant as the third-best product endorser in sports, behind Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan.

Williams says Bryant's clean-cut image has taken a permanent hit, the repercussions of which aren't fully known.

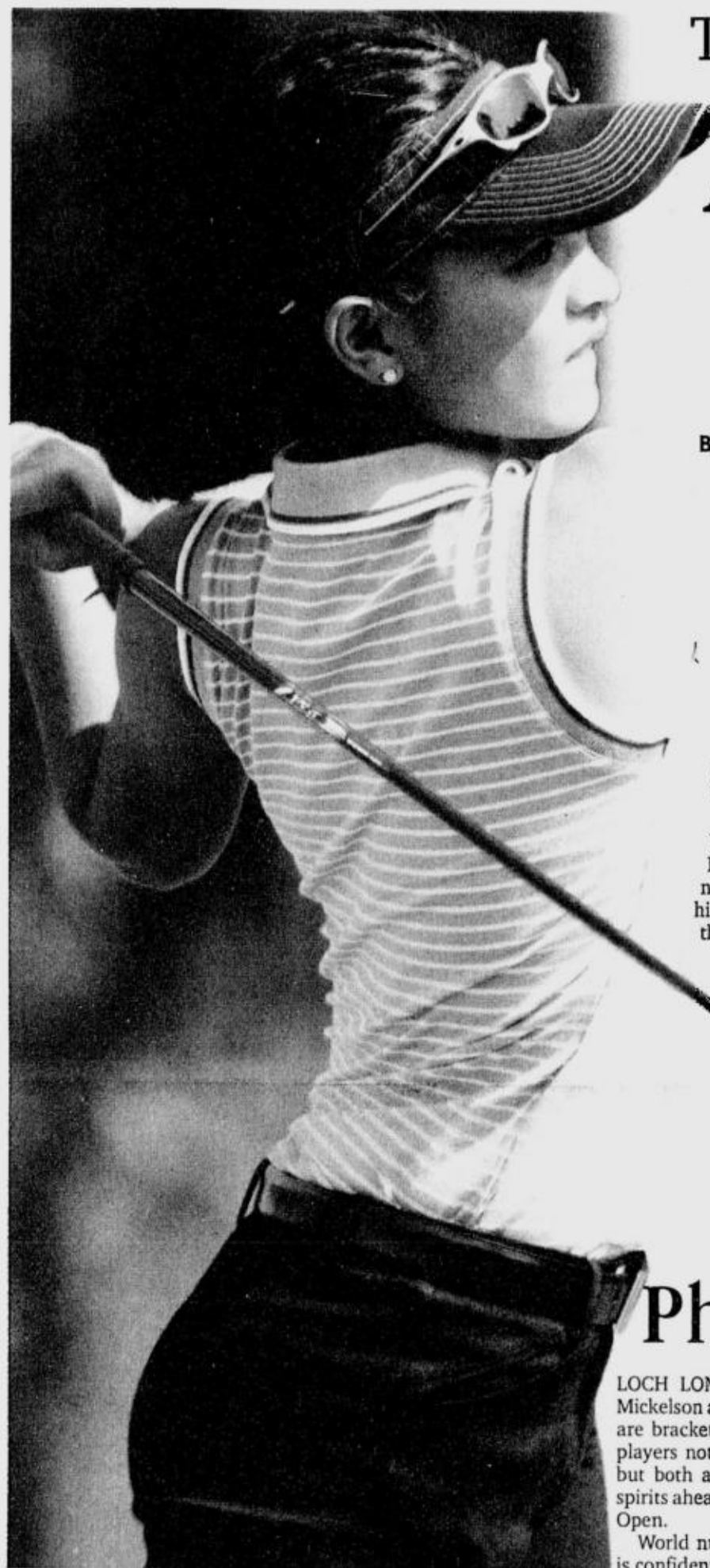
"There's damage done," he said. "The shocker was that he was even in the situation. If you had to pick a handful of athletes who would never get in a situation like this, he'd have probably been on your list. There's a shock factor that people will remember."

Bryant was married in 2001 and became a father in January. He wore his ba-

by girl's hospital ID bracelet in his first game after she was born, enhancing his wholesome image, and later appeared in ESPN ads carrying a case of diapers.

David Carter, head of The Sports Business Group marketing firm in Redondo Beach, Calif., said Bryant has a rare global appeal for marketers, but that the accusation could certainly hurt his image.

"This reminded me of Magic Johnson's AIDS announcement, knocked the wind out of everybody," Carter said. AP



TEMECULA JUNGOLF

Agojo, 2 other RP bets ahead

By Jong Arcano

MURRIETA, California—Jayvee Agojo set the tone for a torrid start by Philippine bets, storming nine strokes ahead of compatriot Matet Salivio with the day's best round of two-under-par 70 in the girls 16-18 years division at the start of the 11th Temecula International junior golf championships at the SCGA Members' Club here Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

The 16-year-old Agojo mastered the well-bunkered layout designed by the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. and appeared ready to notch a fourth consecutive title after making history as the first player to win her age-group three years in a row in 2002.

Salivio scored a 79 while the best-placed local bet Marley was 16 shots behind Agojo.

Two other players of the RP contingent sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, Airlift Asia and the Philippine Sports

JAYVEE Agojo unloads a big drive in this file photo.

ROGER MARGALLO

Commission were in the lead with Tonton Asistio showing the way in the boys 12-13 years and Gino Bunyi tying for top spot in the boys 14-15 division.

Asistio fired a 71 to lead California entry D. Su by three while the much-improved Bunyi joined local bets Fowler and Dequino as frontrunners in their division with his three-over 75 round.

Geleen Handog, playing in her first tournament since being sidelined by an ankle injury two months ago, carded a 76 to stay in solo fourth only six shots behind the frontrunner in the girls 13-15 class.

The other RP entries warming up for next week's Callaway Junior World Championships in San Diego stood far behind the leaders in their respective divisions as Aran Olea managed only an 85, Mikee Camitoc a 78 and Jordan Mamaril a 90.

Gerry Handog, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, said that their decision to fly in early is paying off.

"The kids are not coping with jet-lag or anything. They are in the right frame of mind and in the best physical condition possible," said Handog. "It's a good start and hopefully we can keep the momentum to go all the way."

The three-course tourney hosted by the Valley Junior Golf Association moves to the Redhawk Golf Club in Temecula for the second round Thursday (Friday in Manila) and then winds up Friday at the Menifee Lakes Country Club in Menifee.

The Temecula stint is part of a long US summer adventure for local jungolfers who are also set to campaign in the Desert Junior Classic in Palm Springs, California, the US Kids World Championships in Williamsburg, Virginia and the Optimist International in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Phil, Monty seek 1st major

LOCH LOMOND, Scotland—Phil Mickelson and Colin Montgomerie are bracketed as the best current players not to have won a major, but both are in remarkably high spirits ahead of next week's British Open.

World number eight Mickelson is confident new golf ball technol-

ogy can help him at Royal St George's while 21st-ranked Montgomerie says he has never felt more comfortable with his swing.

The two Ryder Cup players are set to play the first two rounds of this week's Scottish Open in each other's company, and both are delighted to be at par-71 Loch Lomond

as they prepare for the third of the year's four major championships.

"I played well here in 2000 and had my best finish (tied for 11th) in the British Open the following week at St Andrews," American Mickelson said on Wednesday. "So I decided to follow that path and come back and do it again." Reuters



LUNKE

Life's become a whirl for lucky Lunke

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Hilary Lunke is finding life as the US Women's Open champion a bit hectic.

Since winning a dramatic three-way playoff with a 4.5-meter birdie putt on the 18th hole Monday, Lunke has been mobbed by media, fans and friends. For a previously unheralded 24-year-old player who entered the US Open as a qualifier, it's been a life-altering experience.

"It's starting to hit me that my life is different," Lunke said after arriving in Vancouver for this week-end's Canadian Women's Open. "I showed up here at the golf course, didn't take a shower, didn't put on any makeup, just came right out of the hotel thinking I could come and register and get out of here."

Instead, she was greeted by a wall of cameras and microphones as soon as she stepped out of the car.

"I've never walked into a parking lot and had that happen to me," Lunke said. AP

Eastridge grabs overall lead; Northwoods fall

Standings (As of July 5-6)
Group I: 13 Eastridge, 8 Manila Golf, 5 Southwoods, 3 Highlands, 2 Mimosa
Group II: 12 Forest Hills, 8 Valley, 7 Alabang, 3 Wack Wack, 3 Orchard, 1 John Hay
Group III: 11 Northwoods, 9 Riviera, 9 Sherwood Hills, 7 Mt. Malarayat, 7 Canlubang, 3 Sta. Elena

EASTRIDGE grabbed the overall leadership after a sweep of Mimosa and the fall of Royal Northwoods even as Sta. Elena finally broke into the win column in the Federation Golf League matches played in various venues over the weekend.

The tandems of Chino Raymundo-Chito Alfonso (best-ball), Kit Angeles-Manolo Peñalosa (high-low), Ping delos Santos-Hiroshi Koyanagi (aggregate) and Redie Aunzo-Leb Vicente (scramble) all won their matches against opponents from Mimosa for their fifth win in six outings in Group I, boosting their total to a league-best 13 points including a bonus point for the sweep.

Exciting duels punctuated Week 8 of the double-round eliminations with the streaking Sherwood Hills slapping a first loss on Royal Northwoods, 2.5-1.5, in Group III.

The teams of Juami Rocha-Odie Concepcion and Erwin Vinluan-Boy Escaño earned the crucial wins and the Thirty Escaño-Danny

Samaniego combine got the clinching draw as Sherwoods avenged its controversial loss to Northwoods in the first round.

The win gave Sherwood Hills 9 points and a share of second with Riviera which edged Canlubang, 2.5-1.5, on wins by Ed Kalaw-Philip Judan and Bobby Celestino-Bobby Iñigo and a draw by Ray Sangil-Miggs Garcia.

Sharing the weekend's limelight was Sta. Elena which ended its search for a breakthrough win also in Group III by turning back Mt. Malarayat at home, 3-1. Winning for Sta. Elena were Venjo Reyes-Yuri Allado in best-ball, Kenneth Yang-Ed de Leon in high-low and Kevin Tayao-Jackie Arellano in scramble.

Southwoods, meanwhile, recovered from its loss to Manila Golf last week with national champ Jerome Delariarte guiding his team to a 3-1 win over Tagaytay Highlands.

In Group II, Valley downed John Hay, 2.5-1.5, to grab solo second from Alabang while the leading Forest Hills squad was held to a draw by Orchard.

Enrique Olives-Joaquin Tolentino, playing bestball, and Joey Quimson-Chito Laureta, teaming up in aggregate, notched the victories while Art Fontanilla-Bonie Sumbilla nailed the decisive draw in high-low for Valley.

HK lawmakers okay soccer betting

HONG KONG — Hong Kong people will be able to place legal bets on soccer matches, after lawmakers passed a contentious gambling bill by a 30-24 vote Thursday.

The government said the

measure would boost tax revenues and run illegal bookmakers out of business, but Christian and education groups put up an impassioned defense against the bill, saying it would

harm society.

They charged it would create more gambling addicts and encourage young Hong Kong people to bet on soccer—a popular sport among local students. AP



MAR Tanglao of the Alabang Hills Village golf team receives his trophy from Nokia promotions manager Lyn Montealegre at the close of the elimination round of the Nokia Intervillage golf series at Canlubang golf's south course recently. Alabang Hills, BF Homes and Tahanan advanced to the grand finals of the event.



AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Vice Free 2. Tervallac 3. Sexy Royal 4. He's Splendid
Race 2—1. Sweet Talk 2. Hundredfold/Sovereign Queen 3. Against All 4. Yonder Girl 5. Last Dance
Race 3—1. Ponchito 2. Red Strip 3. Firenze Rose/Clarize 4. Classic Model
Race 4—1. Sandata 2. Salamat 3. Perfect Gift 4. King Yoji 5. Ritchie Rich
Race 5—1. Serena 2. Bull Rider 3. Ouzo
Race 6—1. Portal Dancer 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Early Warning 4. Hinobaan Boy 5. Chances Are
Race 7—1. You and Me 2. Apray's Choice 3. Colonial Affair 4. Serendipity 5. Septembermorn
Race 8—1. Brute Force 2. Give and Take 3. Easy Rider 4. Maralex 5. Secret
Race 9—1. Capriole 2. Expediter 3. Slip Away 4. Glamour Girl 5. Precious Moment 6. Queen of Gala

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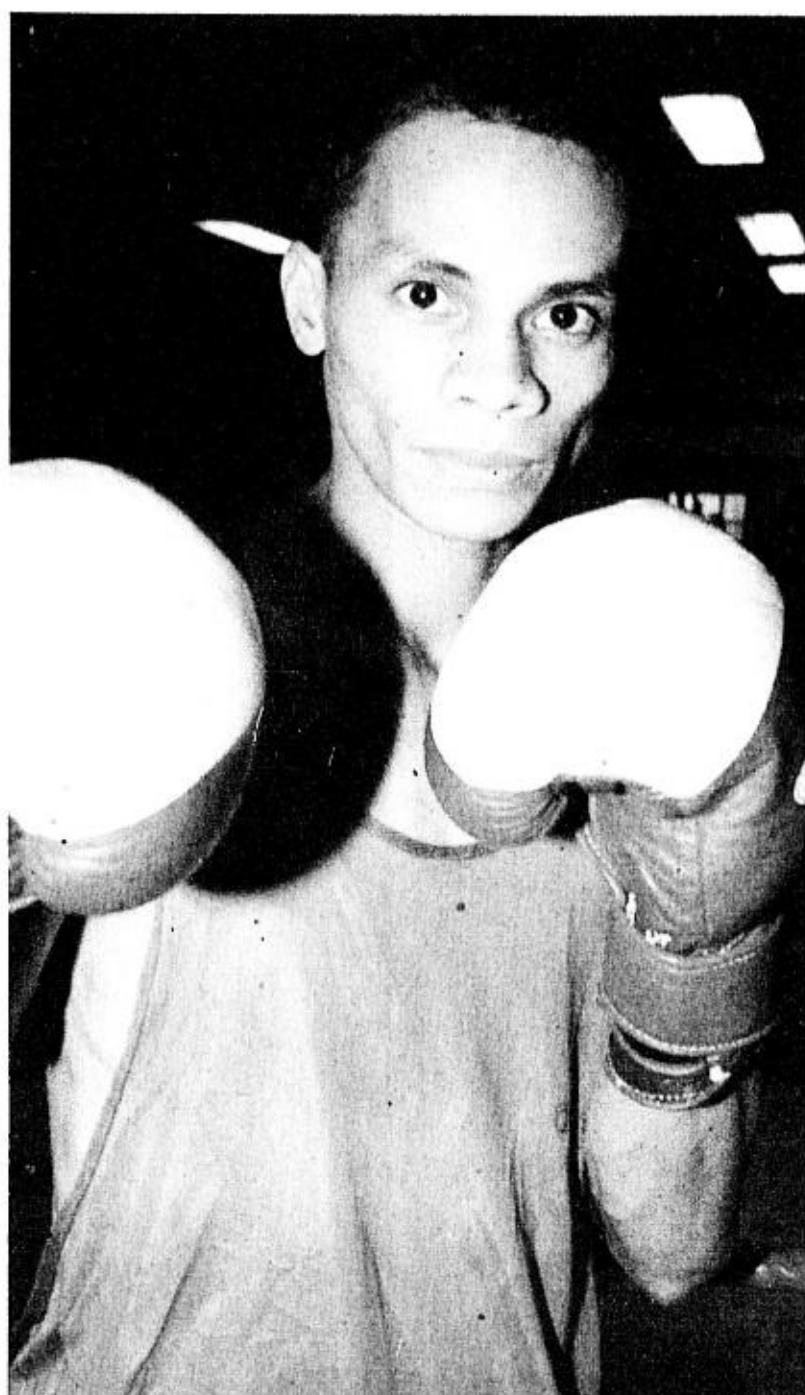
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TAÑAMOR: A victory shy of matching his bronze-medal finish in Ireland.

Tañamor stops Indon foe in 2 rds

FILIPINO light flyweight Harry Tañamor found his Indon opponent an easy target Wednesday night, winning in two rounds and advancing to the quarterfinals of the World Amateur Boxing Championships at the Nimibutr Gymnasium in Bangkok.

The 23-year-old Tañamor, an Armyman from Zamboanga, pummeled Bonix Saweho right from the opening bell and never let up en route to an RSC-CCL (Referee Stopped Contest-Compulsory Count Limit) victory that put him in the company of compatriot Violito Payla.

Tañamor, a silver medallist in the Busan Asian Games, thus came within a win of at least matching his bronze medal finish in the 2001 edition of the biennial event in Ireland. Blocking his path is Belarusian Zhamarlik Starhei, whom he meets Thursday night.

"I noticed that he (Saweho) was just waiting for me to move in, so I gave him 1-2, 1-2 combinations. When he was given an eight count, I continued my attack,"

said Tañamor, who will climb the ring ahead of Payla on Thursday.

Payla will meet defending champion Jerome Thomas of France in the flyweight class.

A win by both Tañamor and Payla will give them automatic bronze medals while gaining the chance to figure in the championship bouts. The semifinals are set on Friday.

Delegation head Manny Lopez, also the president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) and secretary general of the Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing (FAAB), said Tañamor's triumph boosted the morale of the RP Revicon Boxing Team.

"That was a morale-boosting victory. It was the win needed to lift the team's spirit," said Lopez, who had earlier watched in agony the losses of three other Filipinos—bantamweight Arian Lerio, featherweight Joegen Ladon and welterweight Florencio Ferrer.

"It was a big and impressive win. But this should not make us overconfident," said Lopez. "Even if the boys are moving well, they must stay focus. I hope that our luck will stretch to the coming rounds."

Gejon stakes unbeaten card vs de Ocampo

WORLD Boxing Council no. 3 mini-fly contender Yukka "Wiseguy" Gejon and Philippine super bantam king Jimrex Jaca stake their unbeaten records against separate foes in a card dubbed "The Undeatable" set on July 19 at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.



GEJON

The 5-foot-6 Gejon, with 19 wins and a draw with 9 KO's, will try to improve his unbeaten mark against Cenon de Ocampo in a 10-round affair. The dynamite-fisted De Ocampo boasts of 5 KO wins against a loss and a draw.

Jaca, a Rex (Wakee) Salud protégé like Gejon, takes on Bukidnon's Jaime Barcelona in another 10-rounder. The undefeated Jaca is waiting for a crack at the Oriental crown within the year.

Gejon is being groomed by Salud as another potential world champ in the mold of Dodie Boy and Gerry Peñalosa, and Malcolm Tuñacao.

"This is going to be a big night of boxing. My boy Gejon should be ready. He's my next star," said Salud.

Other bouts pit Iloilo's Van Bantilan against Jake Verano; Dexter Delada against Mendosino Sebua; Danilo Cabardo against Greg Mangan; Jayson Geda against Remie Manalop; Danilo Bayo against Junior Solano; Jorge Perales against Elorde Aguilar; and Lucemar Abatayo against Preciano Tabasa.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Payla's flashy French rival fought his way to the top

BANGKOK—France's Jerome Thomas, who underwent a string of painful operations when he was young to correct a birth deformity, is on track to defend his flyweight title at the World Amateur Championships.

"He has been a fighter since he was born," said France's team leader, Do-

minique Nato, on Wednesday. "It is a great story that a kid who was born with physical problems is now a great athlete and a world champion."

The 23-year-old Thomas cruised into the quarterfinals by stopping Soltani Mebarek of Algeria in the third round.

He was leading 32-12 on points when

the referee moved in to save the Algerian from further punishment from Thomas' rapier-like jabs to the head.

Thomas, the bronze medalist at the 2000 Sydney Olympics before winning the world flyweight crown in 2001 with victory over Ukraine's Vladimir Sidorenko, will meet Violito Payla of the

Philippines in the last eight on Thursday.

The French coaching team are full of admiration for the world champion, who overcame the odds to become a top class boxer.

"He was born with a chest deformity and needed 15 operations to correct it," said Nato.

"He was not born with the body of an athlete but he has fought his way to the top. He has been a boxer since he was very young and has won at all age grades in France."

Thomas is on course for a final match up with local hero Somjit Jongjohor, the 2002 Asian Games champion. **AFP**

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

On giving tips

GUT feel told me Talk 'N Text won Games 3 and 4 against Coca-Cola in their ongoing best-of-seven title playoffs for the PBA All-Filipino Conference. On both occasions, it made two friends of mine richer by a thousand bucks.

"No, more than that," said one of them. "So, instead of a bottle of wine for you, an X.O cognac is waiting to be opened. By you and you alone."

Aha, you made a killing, huh?

"Not really," he said. "Just enough to buy us a plate of steamed oysters to go with the cognac."

Oysters from Roxas City, bally-hooed as the sea food capital of the Philippines?

"You bet," he said. "And, in case we need to spice up the session some more, how about a bacalao after our plate of oysters?"

"Your call," I said. "Am just your guest." Don't be deluded into believing I've become the country's male version of Madame Auring. I do predict but I do it merely for fun, not for a living. And I really don't make a habit of winning all the time. Like all mortals, I also goof. I believe in the saying, "You win some, you lose some."

Didn't I lose when I picked Klitschko to beat Lewis three Sundays or so ago?

And when I lose, I stop there. Not to brag, but I say nothing when my prediction turns out false.

I did that once. When a friend of mine lost some money after believing in me, he demanded an explanation.

In reply, I covered my mouth.

"What's that supposed to mean?" he said.

In reply, I wrote on a notepad: "My lips are sealed."

"Uh, OK," he said. "The last time I encountered those words, it got me into more trouble than I had ever imagined. So, let's leave it at that. You don't wanna talk, fine. This will be the last time I'll ever ask for an explanation."

If you are thinking of things other than basketball tips, cut the crap, will you? There's no crazier idea than dragging other people's names into this space. Suffice it to say that I give tips only when I am asked to. All my tip-seekers, I keep them in confidentiality. Those whose tips they get during cocktails and other similar gatherings, good luck.

Mine are never alcohol-laced. They're given when I'm sober, usually in the morning - after a night of boozing. On the phone.

In the Talk 'N Text-Coca-Cola playoffs, gut feel tells me now that TNT might proceed to win the championship.

It would be the upset of the year should it happen?

I don't think so.

How can a Talk 'N Text victory be considered that when the team has the conference MVP in Asi Taulava?

The way he's been playing, Taulava isn't only "The Rock." He is also "The Island" upon which all TNT laurels would land on.

Didn't Taulava once score 46 points and grab 26 rebounds? I guess it happened sometime in March, during an elimination round game. I don't remember even Shaquille O'Neal doing that much in the NBA.

I have given Game 2 a second, hard look, the one game when Talk 'N Text missed 21 free throws. Eleven of them by Taulava.

Look, TNT lost that game by just 3 points. I can't imagine a team missing free throws that many and not losing the game by at least 10 points.

With that setback, Coca-Cola went on to post a 2-0 lead.

If you ask me, Coke coach Chot Reyes should have felt more alarmed by his Game 2 victory than TNT coach Joel Banal.

There was definitely something wrong with that win and the coach that should be the least bothered by it should have been the losing coach, Joel Banal. Minus those 21 missed free throws, it was a won-game for TNT.

TNT won Game 3 because it improved its free throw shooting to 64-plus percent. And more. The Phone Pals adjusted their defenses and sacrificed Taulava's scoring power.

From 40-plus points in Game 2, Taulava had 20-plus points in Game 3; "The Rock" had turned from a killing machine to defense minister.

With momentum suddenly shifting on their side, the Phone Pals claimed with seeming ease their second straight win on Wednesday to tie the series at 2-2 going to tonight's Game 5.

Reyes was unconvinced of his team's loss in Game 4 as evidenced by his offering the hand of surrender to Banal even with much time left in the game. It was obvious Reyes did that in protest over what he perceived was spotty officiating.

Indeed there were officiating lapses Wednesday night. But that is always a given in every tournament in the world. Man can never perfect the art of whistle blowing. Even the NBA has learned to accept that sad reality.

So, back to tonight's Game 5.

"Will I go TNT again?" asked a friend.

"Wait," I said. "Slow down. The game's tomorrow yet."

"I need to know now," he said. "My gambling foe is on the other phone."

"Tell him to call you back tomorrow," I said. "I'll give you my tip when I'm sober. And that's tomorrow morning."

My guts. They were troubled when he called. For a guy used to drinking gin, cognac - an X.O at that - was a knockout.

FASTBREAK (bold font, pls). I condole with the loved ones of Rey Palarca, the former Filipino UPI photographer who died in Antioch, California, two days ago.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

Phone Pals, Tigers break 2-2 tie today

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
5 p.m.—Purefoods vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Coca-Cola (Game 5)

Game 1—Coca-Cola d. Talk N Text, 93-79
Game 2—Coca-Cola d. Talk N Text, 92-89
Game 3—Talk N Text d. Coca-Cola, 67-59
Game 4—Talk N Text d. Coca-Cola, 99-91

TALK N Text has taken the word "momentum" out of its dictionary.

The Phone Pals have replaced it with hard work, dedication and sacrifice, qualities they hope to display again to sustain their streak in Game 5 tonight of the Samsung-PBA All-Filipino Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I don't believe in momentum. Look at the (Coca-Cola) Tigers, they had it when they went 2-0 but the series is now tied so it doesn't really follow," said Talk N Text coach Joel Banal after the Phone Pals pulled off a 99-91 win to deadlock the best-of-seven playoffs at 2-2.

Instead of gloating over the momentum shift, Banal said they would rather play harder while expecting the Tigers to come up with whatever is necessary to break the Phone Pals' two-game roll that has reduced the series into a best-of-three affair.

Game 5 is set at 7:30 p.m. after the Mabuhay Cup encounter between Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra at 5 o'clock.

"We have to come out more focused and aggressive in Game 5. We can achieve that through hard work, sacrifice and dedication and by not thinking that we have the momentum," said Banal.

Rookie Jimmy Alapag, Asi Taulava, Harvey Carey, Bong Ravena and Mark Telan lived by the virtues that Banal preached in Game 4.

Alapag caught fire for the first time



TAULAVA: All Filipino's best.

in the series and added a new wrinkle in the offensive strategy of the Phone Pals, whose focus prior to Games 3 and 4 was to attack the middle through Asi Taulava.

Honored as the player of the conference before Game 4, Taulava wasn't a lonely figure in scoring for the Manny Pangilinan-owned franchise anymore as the rest of the Phone Pals finally discovered their shooting touch from the quartercourts.

Now, Patrick Fran, Victor Pablo, Donbel Belano, Jojo Manalo, Alapag, Carey and Ravena know when to give Taulava the ball and when to take matters into their hands.

"They are inspired because of what happened to us in Game 1. We got embarrassed at that time and thinking about it pushed us to work hard," said

Banal.

With that as inspiration, the Phone Pals successfully put the cuffs on Coca-Cola's Jeffrey Cariaso and Rob Wainwright, who both averaged double figures in the first three games.

In Game 4, Wainwright and Cariaso were limited to six points apiece, leaving the scoring burden of the defending champion Tigers to Rafi Reavis, Rudy Hatfield, Johnny Abarrientos and Ato Morano.

"Our goal was to limit the numbers of Coca-Cola players who averaged in double figures. We somehow achieved that after Wainwright and Cariaso failed to score 10 points or more," said Talk N Text assistant coach Virgil Villavicencio.

Normally, the Tigers have six players scoring in double figures every night.

Also spurring the Phone Pals was the comment made by Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes after the Tigers went up 2-0 in the series. Reyes had said that if the Tigers win Game 3 and grab a 3-0 lead, then the Finals would be over.

"That remark really inspired us to play harder and that's what we've been waiting for, something that will push us to play even harder," said Taulava.

No team has ever come back from a 0-3 hole to win a PBA title and only two squads have rallied from 0-2 to go all the way in a best-of-seven playoffs in the league.

Despite all the hoopla surrounding the Phone Pals' comeback, Banal remains wary of the Tigers.

"They are the champions because they know how to adjust and know what it takes to win the championship. I'm sure they're going to try new things and I just hope we could match up with their anger and aggressiveness," said Banal.



CRIS Bolado of Coca-Cola blocks a layup by

Mapua Cardinals, A shoot for third vict

Standings	W	L
Perpetual	2	1
Mapua	2	1
JRU	2	1
Letran	2	1
SSC-R	2	1
PCU	1	2
San Beda	1	2
St. Benilde	0	3

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Perpetual vs San Beda (Jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (srs/Jrs)

BUOYED by its great escape against tournament favorite University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, Mapua shoots for another

win today to stay in the lead in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim and his Cardinals will try to repeat their winning act when they tangle with the Philippine Christian University Dolphins at 4 p.m.

The Cardinals pulled off a 61-59 overtime squeaker over the Altas last week, giving them a tie for the lead with their victims at 2-1 together with Jose Rizal University, Letran and defending champion San Sebastian.

"It was a scary win. I hope

the momentum of that victory can carry us against PCU," said Lim, whose Cardinals are trying to improve their sixth-place finish last season.

Earlier, the Altas try to bounce back from their stinging loss to the Cardinals when they collide with the San Beda Lions at 1:30 p.m.

The Lions have the same 1-2 win-loss record as the Dolphins.

Mapua is expected to lean again on veterans Christian Guevarra, Jeffrey Martin, Nat Cruz, Raymond Dula, Jofferson Gonzales, Hermer Sumalinog and Ryan Malig.



ALAPAG issues a pass off Abarrientos.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Rare world badminton stint for Asun

By Dennis U. Erosa

SPORTING history will be made when the brother and sister tandem of Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion compete in the prestigious World Badminton Championships slated on July 28 in Birmingham, England.

Not much is expected from the top Filipino shuttlecock artists, but their presence in the annual tournament featuring the world's best players speak loudly of the state of badminton, which is presently enjoying a boom.

"We're delighted," said Kennie, who already boasts of a bronze medal in the women's doubles competitions of the 1997 Jakarta SEA Games.

The 26-year-old Kennie, two years older than Kennevic, partnered former PSC Commissioner Weena Lim in winning the country's first-ever medal in the biennial Games.

"It's a big honor for the country," said former First Lady Ming Ramos, also the president of the Philippine Badminton Association.

Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, vice president of the PBA and the International Badminton Federation, said the Asuncions will gain a lot of experience in the World Championships.

In 1996, Lim qualified and saw action in the Atlanta Olympics.

The Asuncions, whose father-coach Nelson was a former member of the national team, had to hurdle tough qualifying matches for the

"Our long term goal is to make the Greece Olympics"

world tilt.

"We won the bronze in the Canadian Open, reached the round of 16 in the US Open and the JVC Asian Championship in Bangkok last year," said Kennevic, the country's number one men's singles and doubles player.

At present, the RP duo is ranked 63rd in the world, good enough to merit an invitation from the organizers of the World Championship.

Aside from the PBA, the Asuncions, who practice twice a day at the Valle Verde Country Club, are also getting support from Albee Benitez, president of Bingo Bonanza.

"Our long term goal is to make the Greece Olympics. This will be another achievement for us. For the moment, we want to play very well in Birmingham," said the 5-foot-5 Kennevic.

Aside from the thrill of playing against the world's best players, the duo said going to London will add to their appreciation of the various cultures in different parts of the world.

Both are Tourism graduates from the University of Philippines in Diliman.

Kennevic idolizes Indonesian hero

Allan Barcelo, Kennie's wife, who is also in the Philippines, would also like to see the duo win. "We try, but we want to be successful," she said.



Harvey Carey of Talk N Text in Game 4 won by the Phone Pals, 99-91, Wednesday.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Altas ories

High rent may chase PBA out of Philsports

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association Commissioner's Office will move out of the Philsports Arena once the Philippine Sports Commission increases the rental of office space inside the sports complex in Pasig.

Media bureau chief Willie Marcial said the PSC, which manages and operates the sporting facilities in the arena, had notified the league yesterday of its plan to increase the rental of office space from P100 per square meter to P300-P400 per square meter starting this month.

The PBA occupies at least 400 square meters of office space inside one of the buildings of the Philsports Arena, where the league conducts its day-to-day

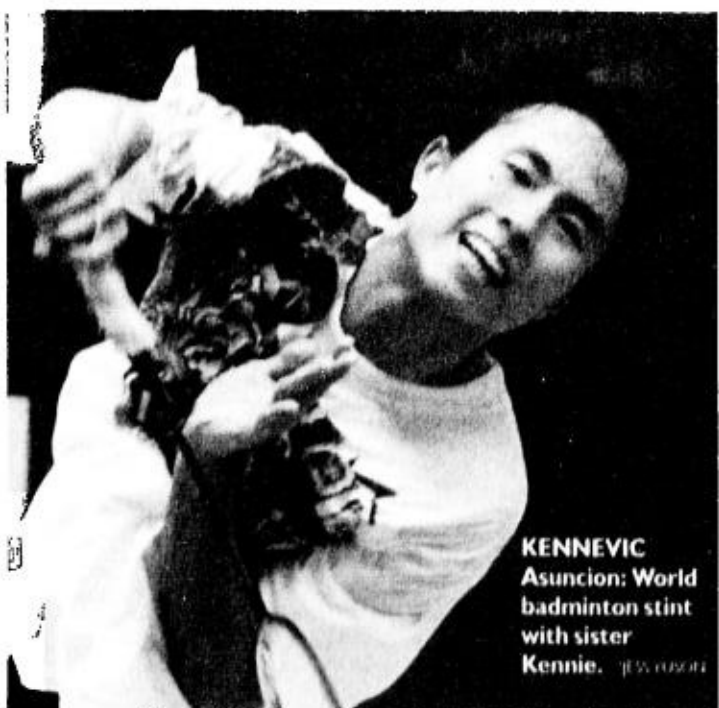
operations.

If the PSC threat pushes through, Marcial said the PBA would not think twice of moving over to another office. In fact, Marcial said the league is already scouting for an office space within the Ortigas area with a reasonable price.

"There are office spaces available within the area which asks for a lower rate," said Marcial.

The PSC, Marcial said, has also increased its fee for the rental of the Philsports Arena to at least P180,000 per playdate starting this month. The old rental fee was only 25 per cent of the total PBA ticket sales for the day, Marcial added.

The PSC and the PBA are also in the thick of negotiations with respect to the advertisements inside the arena.



KENNEVIC Asuncion: World badminton stint with sister Kennie. JEWELSON

Budie Kusuma, the 1992 Asia Olympics gold medalist, likes Susi Susanti, Kusuma's who won the ladies singles gold in Barcelona.

"The someday we can also win Olympic badminton gold. But this requires lots of hard work, practice, skills and of course the need for exposure," Kennevic

Ramos had earlier told the that Filipino players can exceptionally because they have the same build as the world-famous Indonesians, Chinese, Koreans and Malaysians.

"We are a basketball-loving country, but badminton must also be given prominence," said Mrs. Ramos.

Nowitzki vanguard of German quintet

BERLIN — Dirk Nowitzki, the Dallas Mavericks star, leads Germany's preliminary roster for the upcoming European Championship announced Wednesday by coach Henrik Dettmann.

Nowitzki, who has been a regular member of the German national team despite his NBA contract, is expected to practise with his teammates as soon as he gets back from Dallas.

The 16-man squad also includes center Patrick Femerling of Barcelona, forward Ademola Okulaja of Unicaja Malaga, guard

Misan Nikagbatse of Snaidero Udine, and Penn State's forward Jan Jagla.

The European Championship will take place in Sweden Sept. 5-14.

Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Russia are the traditional favorites in the championship, although teams like Germany and Spain have been making big improvements over the last five years.

Germany's group includes Russia, Spain and defending champion Serbia and Montenegro. AP



NOWITZKI in action for the Mavericks

AP

Venus, Seles out of Fed Cup squad

WHITE PLAINS, New York, July 9 (AFP) - Venus Williams and Monica Seles have withdrawn from the US Federation Cup team due to injuries.

Williams aggravated an abdominal strain at Wimbledon and Seles is bothered by a foot injury.

"Fans around the world watched Venus valiantly compete while injured at Wimbledon and we understand her need to recuperate," said Fed Cup captain Billie Jean King on Wednesday.

"Monica has been a stalwart contributor to the US Fed Cup effort, but she too has been playing hurt and her need to fully heal from a foot injury supersedes this Fed Cup commitment," King named Chanda Rubin, the world's eighth-ranked



SELES



WILLIAMS

player, and Alexandra Stevenson as the replacements.

They join Meghann Shaughnessy and Lisa Raymond on the US team that will face Italy in the Fed Cup quarter-final July 19-20 in Washington.

"Chanda has overcome a number of operations and

obstacles and has had an unbelievable run to get back into the Top 10," King said.

"It's great to have her back on the Fed Cup effort along with Alexandra, Meghann and Lisa, who have played on the team this year and last." Rubin, 27, reached the quarter-fi-

nals of the French Open and is in the top-10 for the first time since 1996.

Stevenson, 22, had her best Grand Slam finish at Wimbledon in 1999 as the first woman qualifier to reach the semi-finals.

Shaughnessy, 24, who will be representing the US for the fourth consecutive Fed Cup, reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final at the 2003 Australian Open.

Raymond, 29, has won seven Grand Slam doubles titles. She is 5-4 in seven Fed Cup appearances and was a member of the 2000 championship team.

Italian team captain Corrado Barazzutti named Silvia Farina-Elia, Francesca Schiavone, Rita Grande and Tathiana Garbin as members of his team. AFP



Bong Barrameda

VOL. 1 NO. 028

One and only

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

o True / o False:
Mon Fernandez is the only player in PBA history to be named Most Valuable Player four times.

2 > 5 Pts.

Which female is the only tennis player to win 24 grand slam singles titles?
o Margaret Court (Australia)
o Martina Navratilova (USA)

3 > 7 Pts.

Who's the only athlete to play in both the World Series and the Super Bowl?
o Bo Jackson
o O. J. Simpson
o Deion Sanders

4 > 10 Pts.

Who's the only boxer to hold world titles at three different weights simultaneously: featherweight, welterweight, and lightweight titles?
o Sandy Sadler
o Henry Armstrong
o Sugar Ray Robinson

5 > 20 Pts.

Who's the only athlete to be named Sportsman of the Year twice by Sports Illustrated magazine?
o Muhammad Ali
o Pete
o Michael Jordan
o Tiger Woods

6 > 25 Pts.

In 1979, who signed a one-year \$50,000 contract with the Indiana Pacers, thereby becoming the only female ever to ink a contract with an NBA team (though she never officially played a single second)?
o Anne Meyers
o Nancy Lieberman
o Lynette Woodard
o Lucy Harris

7 > 30 Pts.

Not out in the cold: He was the one-man Philippine contingent to the 1992 Albertville Games in France, and placed 71st in the giant slalom event. Name this only Filipino ever to compete in the Winter Olympics.



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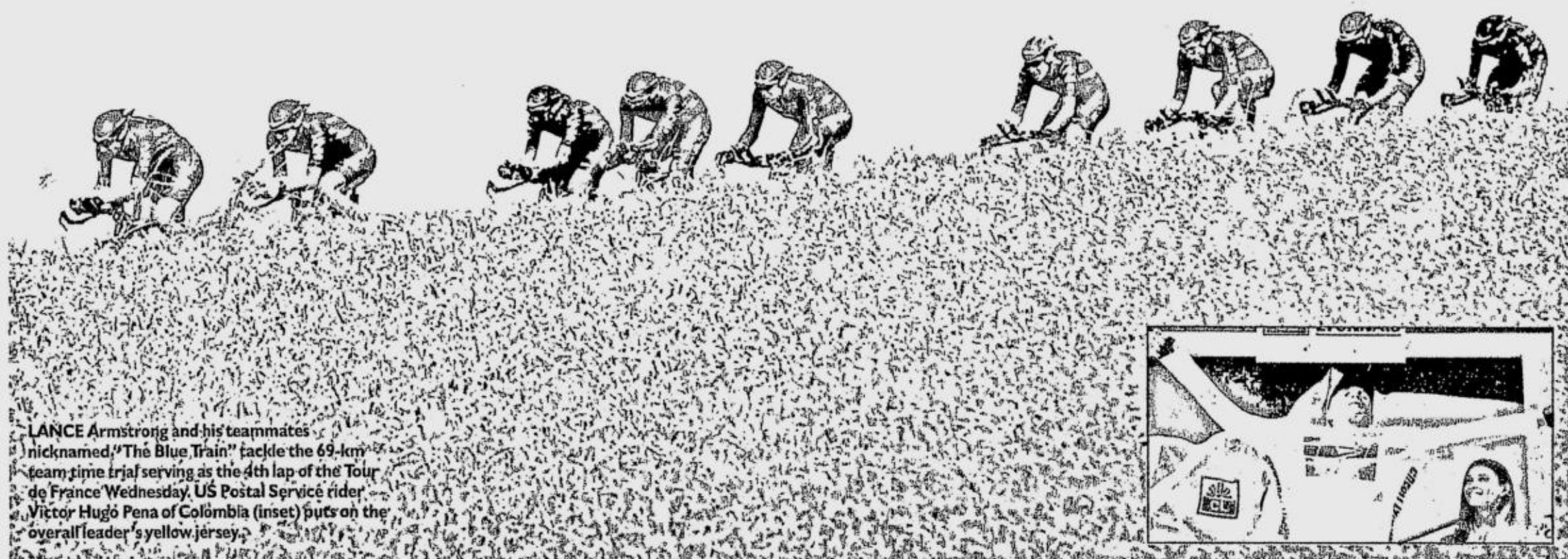
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ANSWERS A28

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Lethal Lance on target



LANCE Armstrong and his teammates, nicknamed "The Blue Train," tackle the 69-km team time trial serving as the 4th lap of the Tour de France Wednesday. US Postal Service rider Victor Hugo Pena of Colombia (inset) puts on the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Armstrong's Blue Train pedals to devastating win

SAINT-DIZIER, France—Putting teeth in his hunt for a record-tying fifth Tour de France title, Lance Armstrong and his US Postal Service squad powered to their first ever win in team time trials Wednesday at cycling's showcase event, leaving rivals in their wake.

The victory bumped Armstrong up to second place overall, just behind one of his teammates, putting the four-time champion in a position of strength as the Tour begins heading south toward the Alps and their leg-debilitating climbs.

On the Tour, Armstrong and his Postal teammates are nicknamed "the Blue Train." On Wednesday, they showed why. Working like a well-oiled machine, with go-fast blue racing suits, aerodynamic bikes and teardrop-shaped helmets, they made light work of a course where some of the 31-year-old Texan's key challengers struggled.

Armstrong had never before won the technical and demanding race, where squads compete against the clock. In 2002, his Postals placed second, 16 seconds behind the ONCE team.

"Last year, and in previous years, we didn't win the time trial, and it was a really unhappy feeling at the dinner table. We were asking ourselves 'why we couldn't do it, so this time we just said, 'Come on, let's do it, we've got to do this,'" he said. "It will be a happy dinner table tonight."

The race, run in hot, sunny weather over 69 kilometers (42.8 miles) and finishing in the town

of Saint-Dizier, was a key target of the Postals in this first week of the grueling three-week Tour.

They won in 1 hour, 18 minutes and 27 seconds, relaying each other along the route and cycling in line to pull each other along.

"Sometimes you get to the finish line and you think... that was easy, but that wasn't today. That was a full effort from everybody," said Armstrong.

"It was quite a hard course, with the wind—lots of wind," he said. "It's a very, very hard discipline."

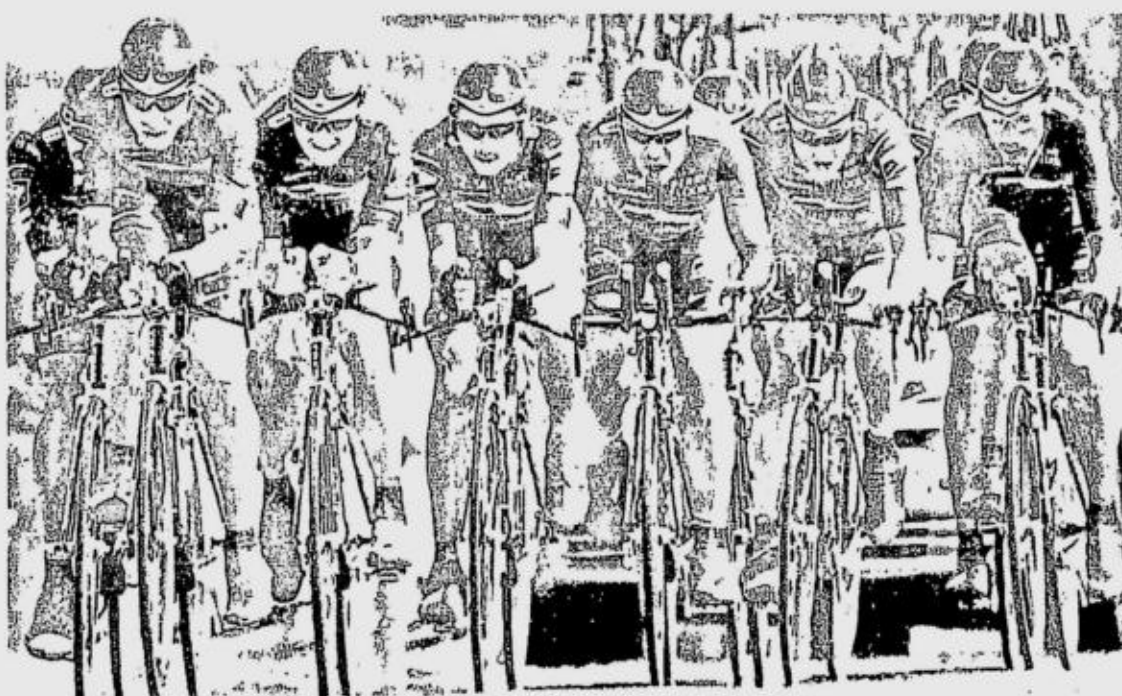
It was the Postals' first win on this Tour, where Armstrong is aiming to equal Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five successive wins.

Until now, and with the Alps looming on Saturday, Armstrong had largely saved his strength and sought to avoid accidents in the Tour's relatively flat and fast early stages.

The Postals won with a 30-second margin over the second-placed ONCE team and a 43-second gap over the Bianchi team. Both squads have riders who could derail Armstrong's campaign.

The 1997 Tour winner, Jan Ullrich of Bianchi, slipped to 12th overall, 38 seconds behind Armstrong. Two other key rivals, ONCE's Joseba Beloki and Telekom's Santiago Botero, were 9th and 29th overall. Beloki was 32 seconds behind Armstrong, but Botero was 1 minute and 32 seconds behind.

Giro d'Italia winner Gilberto Simoni, another rider rated as a chal-



US Postal Service riders, with team leader Lance Armstrong, second from right, charge to the finish line during the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race.

lenger, was a whopping 3 minutes and 8 seconds behind, in 106th.

In the time trial, racers get their team's time—a disadvantage for racers with weak squads.

"It counts for individual time," said Armstrong. "It's either a gift or a curse, as I always say. I'll take the gift."

The coveted yellow jersey awarded to the overall leader went to Armstrong's teammate, Victor Hugo Pena, the first Colombian to wear it in the Tour's 100-year history. Pena, a former national champion swimmer, leads Armstrong by a second because he was that much faster

than the Texan in the Tour's first race this year—a sprint through Paris last Saturday.

"Sure, I'll be the one wearing the yellow jersey, but this is a victory for the team—it's one of the best teams that's ever existed in the world," said Pena, who turns 29 on Thursday.

"This is simply the proof that when he wants to be, Armstrong can also be the best teammate in the world," Pena said.

Armstrong had been 12th overall going into Wednesday's race. He and other Postal riders now hold the top eight places, with 16 days of racing left.

But Pena, like other Postals, is on the team to help Armstrong win. He said he expected his leader to take the lead later in the Tour.

"I have the jersey now, but we'll give it to him later," he said.

"The plan stays the same. We work for Lance," added teammate George Hincapie.

Despite Armstrong's successes at the Tour, who came back from cancer to first win in 1999, the Postals' previous failures to take the team event was a blemish on their record.

"It took us four years to win," said Hincapie. "Today is a great day for us."

Space-age gear gives US riders extra push

SAINT-DIZIER, France—A bicycle's just a bicycle, right? Not when your name is Lance Armstrong it's not.

The four-time champion and other Tour de France racers mounted flash space-age, aerodynamic bikes Wednesday and donned teardrop-shaped helmets that slice through the air in an effort to make up precious seconds in team time trials. Armstrong's US Postal Service squad won the race, 30 seconds ahead of the second-placed ONCE team.

One of Armstrong's racing helmets bears the words: "Daddy Yo Yo." That's because his young son, Luke, has called him that when Armstrong's worn the coveted yellow jersey given to Tour leaders, said Scott Daubert of Trek Bicycle Corp., which makes the champion's bikes.

Armstrong's bike Wednesday had an aerodynamic frame, handlebars and back wheel. Made from carbon fiber and aluminum, it weighs somewhere above 8 kg—the exact weight is secret, said Daubert.

Phelps leads US tank bid

LONDON—Michael Phelps leads American ambitions to wrest supremacy from Ian Thorpe's Australia in the forthcoming world swimming championships in Barcelona which start on Sunday.

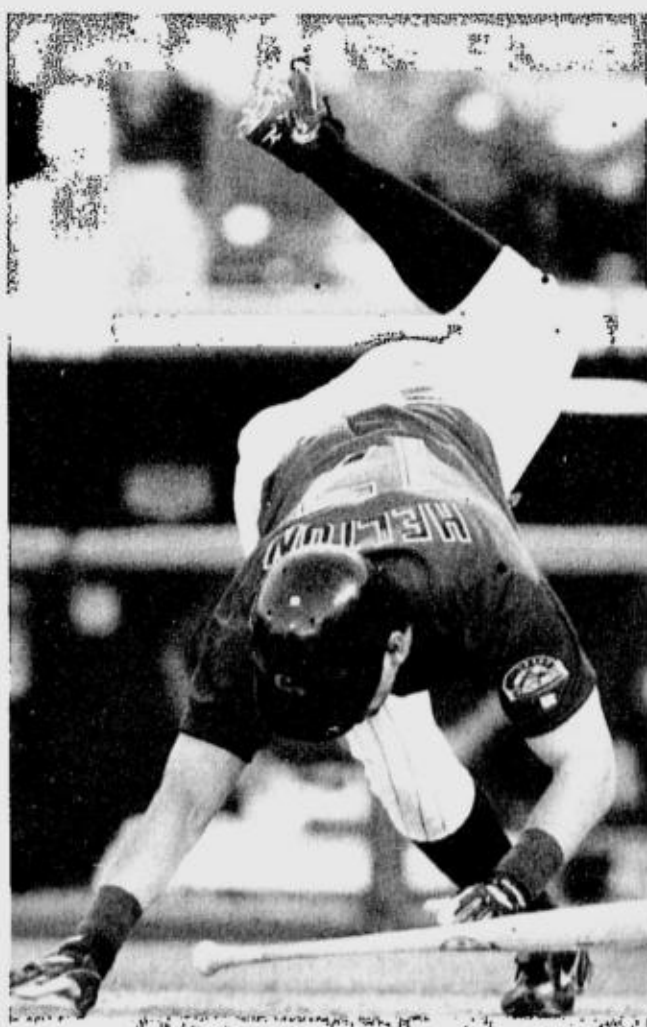
Thorpe won a record six gold medals at the last world championships in Fukuoka, Japan, in 2001 as Australia claimed 13 titles in the pool against nine for the United States following a 14-7 advantage to the Americans at the 1998 edition in Perth.

The US scored an overwhelming 196-74 points victory over their rivals in the 'Duel in the Pool' in Indianapolis in April but the Australians were depleted and Thorpe pulled out because of a viral illness.

Reuters



- ANSWERS From page A27
1. False (Alvin Patrimonio duplicated the four-feet)
 2. Margaret Court
 3. Delon Sanders
 4. Henry Armstrong (1938)
 5. Tiger Woods (1996 and 2000)
 6. Anne Meyers
 7. Michael Teruel



TODD Helton of the Colorado Rockies dives to the ground as he gets hit by a pitch thrown by Jerse Foppert.

Ortiz caps big Red Sox comeback

TORONTO—David Ortiz doubled home the winning run in the top of the ninth inning as the Boston Red Sox rallied from a four-run deficit to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-7 on Wednesday.

Boston trailed 7-3 entering the eighth inning, scored four runs in the eighth and a single in the ninth to beat the Blue Jays by a run for the second straight game.

Manny Ramirez led off the ninth inning by hitting a long fly ball off the glove of center fielder Vernon Wells, who nearly collided with left fielder Shannon Stewart.

The ball rolled to the fence for a triple and Ramirez scored the go-ahead run on Ortiz's double.

Ramirez also homered in the eighth inning for the Red Sox,

while Jason Varitek drove in three runs with two hits.

Brandon Lyon (4-5) tossed a scoreless inning for the win, while Byung-Hyun Kim got the last three outs for the save.

Jeff Tam (0-4) allowed one run on two hits in 2/3 innings to take the loss.

Frank Catalanotto had five hits including a homer and drove in two runs for Toronto while Carlos Delgado added three hits and drove in his major-league leading 94th run of the season.

Athletics 6, Devil Rays 3

In Oakland, Adam Piatt had two hits and drove in three runs to lead the A's to a 6-3 win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Ricardo Rincon (3-1)

pitched a scoreless inning of relief and Keith Foulke converted his 23rd save with a perfect ninth inning.

Toby Hall homered to give Tampa Bay a 3-1 lead in the sixth inning before Jesus Colome (2-5) gave up three runs and three hits 2/3 of an inning of relief.

Yankees 6, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Derek Jeter had four hits and two RBI to help the New York Yankees to a 6-2 win over the Indians.

David Wells (11-3) allowed two runs and nine hits in 7 2/3 innings for the win.

C.C. Sabathia (8-4) gave up four runs and five hits in seven innings. He struck out six batters and walked six.

Tigers 4, White Sox 2

In Detroit, Jeremy Bonderman (3-13) snapped a seven-game losing streak that lasted for more than two months to give the Tigers a 4-2 win over the Chicago White Sox.

He held the White Sox to two runs and three hits in 6 1/3 innings before Chris Mears pitched a perfect ninth inning for his second save.

Bartolo Colon (6-8) dropped his third straight decision after giving up four runs and 11 hits in a six-inning start.

Reuters

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2003

PARIS OPEN

Paragua stays in title hunt

By Roy Luarca

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua settled for a draw with Israeli IM Afek Yochanan Wednesday night, staying in the title hunt halfway through the Championnat de Paris 2003 Open Chess Championship at the Commerce Industriel de Paris in France.

"I couldn't force the issue as the position was too difficult," said the 19-year-old Paragua, who improved his total to 3.5 points after five rounds of play. "Anyway there are four more rounds left to get a GM result."

The eighth-seeded Paragua (Elo 2550), who is hoping to become the Philippines' fifth grandmaster, is in a tie for the 9th to 18th



PARAGUA

places with Israeli GM Alon Greenfeld (2556), Irish IM Amir Bagheri (2500), IM Afek Yochanan (2387), IM Anthony Bellaiche (2429), IM Philippine Karr-Jean (2363), IM Pascal Chomet (2381), FM Yannick Berthelot (2340), Olivier Simon (2315) and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2386) of France.

Newly crowned Cebuano IM Joseph Sanchez (Elo 2410) beat Fide Master Yves Toulzac-Piere (2282) of France to climb to 3 points and share 19th to 28th places.

"It's very hard to score, but Mark and I will do our best for our country," said the 32-year-old Sanchez, a member of the Philippine Navy chess team who is also Paragua's trainer and coach.

National Chess Federation of the Philip-

pines secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo said he is confident Paragua would make it, citing the Asian 3.2a Zonal where Paragua rallied in the last few rounds to place second to compatriot Ronald Dableo and earn a slot to the 2004 World Chess Championship.

Paragua and Sanchez are the only Asians in the 69-man, nine-round Swiss system tournament.

Top seed GM Konstantin Landa (2614) of Russia remained on top with 4 points, sharing the lead with 2nd seed GM Stanislav Savchenko (2560) of Ukraine, 4th seed GM Andrei Shchekachev (2550) of Russia, 5th seed Alberto David (2550) of Luxembourg, 6th seed GM Manuel Apicella (2522) of France, 10th seed IM Todor Todorov (2471) of Bulgaria, FM Thal Abergel (2412) and Philippe Brochet (2388) of France. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

RP cage team changes likely

THERE might be changes in the composition of the RP Cebuana Lhuillier team competing in the PBA's Asian Invitational set to start July 27.

This developed as national pool members from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines have yet to be given permission to play by their respective schools, forcing the coaching staff headed by veteran mentor Aric del Rosario to look for possible replacements.

Del Rosario said several Philippine Basketball League stars, led by this year's MVP Gary David, have been attending the team's practices the last few weeks.

Among those who've been showing up are 6-foot7 Irvin

Sotto, 6-4 Nelbert Omolon and 6-5 Recaredo Calimag.

If the UAAP board rejects the request of the Basketball Association of the Philippines to allow the UAAP players to don the national colors, PBL players would likely fill in the void, according to Del Rosario.

Included in the original RP Cebuana Lhuillier roster, but have yet to be given clearance to play in the Invitational, which will feature three foreign teams, are Ateneo's Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales, UE's James Yap and Paul Artadi, and UST's Alwin Espiritu.

Del Rosario, also the UST head coach, is being assisted by Boyzie Zamar and Dong Vergeire.

Roy Luarca

Most of what you hear about our company is half-true. The other half is also true.

For some time now, Next Mobile has been subjected to a lot of unwarranted issues and controversies directed mostly at its former company, Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc. (NCPI). To finally put these issues to rest, Next Mobile has decided to present the truth to both sides of the story.

PAST

Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc. (NCPI) (1998-2002)

There was an existing friction between NCPI and its former top executive Antonio M. Urrera.

Yes, this is true. The conflict between the two began in 2001 when NCPI refused to grant Mr. Urrera's financial demands related to his resignation and separation but instead asked him to return the company properties still in his possession. NCPI eventually filed a court case of replevin (Civil Case No. 68578 at the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City) against Mr. Urrera demanding the surrender of such property, and

another case for non-payment of loans and unjustified reimbursements amounting to P4.3 million (Civil Case No. 68679 at the Regional Trial Court of Pasig City). In retaliation, Mr. Urrera filed cases raising the foreign equity issue against NCPI and initiated a Congressional probe by the House committees on transportation & communications and legislative franchises.

PRESENT

NEXTmobile (2002-present)

The existing friction between NCPI and Mr. Urrera is not Next Mobile's fight.

This is true due to the fact that Next Mobile merely inherited these cases filed by Mr. Urrera against NCPI. It would have been a simple solution had Mr. Urrera returned NCPI's properties and monies. For the record, the new owners of NCPI are committed to paying any retirement benefit unpaid by its former company. But based on record dated August 1, 2001, Mr. Urrera withdrew from the company bank account the amount of P12 million as his retirement benefit. And yet in February 14, 2003, he demanded Nextel Communications, Inc. (NCI), the parent company of NCI, to pay him the amount of US\$5 million and threatened that he will otherwise go to Congress and start a Congressional investigation. When the company refused to pay him any amount of money, Mr. Urrera went

to Congress and accused the company of having violated the Constitutional limits on foreign ownership in telecom companies.

It might be important to note that Mr. Urrera used these same arguments at the Regional Trial Court, where he LOST his motions to the Supreme Court (Regional Trial Case No. 68679, Decision dated April 2, 2002; Court of Appeals CA-G.R. SP No. 71620, Decision dated September 13, 2002, and the Supreme Court G.R. No. 156904, Decision dated April 9, 2003). The new owners of NCPI believe that the honorable men and women of the Philippine Congress will refuse to act as Mr. Urrera's collection agency. Next Mobile will not pay a single centavo, period!

The lawsuits filed against NCPI's officers and shareholders were dismissed by the NTC and the DOJ.

On May 6, 2003, all the cases at the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC, Adm. Case No. 2001-140 and Adm. Case No. 2002-13) were dismissed by the NTC citing DOJ and SEC's consistent and categorical rulings in numerous similar cases where compliance with the Constitutional limit of foreign ownership in Philippine companies have been established.

On June 2, 2003, the SEC likewise rendered an opinion stating that based on Next Mobile's General Information Sheet, Next Mobile's entire stockholdings is composed of 60% Filipino equity and only 40% foreign equity. Thus, Next Mobile is in compliance with the Constitutional requirement on Filipino ownership.

On June 27, 2003, the Department of Justice dismissed for lack of evidence the charge that NCPI violated the foreign ownership limitations. After thoroughly examining the facts and evidence presented, the DOJ ruled that NCPI complied with the 40% legal limitation, that there was no simulation of the minimum 60% Filipino equity in NCPI and that there is no basis for indicting NCPI officers and directors for violation of the Anti-Dummy Law.

The new owners of NCPI believe that the old owners of the company have indeed complied with the requirements of the law. NCPI is now Next Mobile and is owned, controlled and managed by Filipinos.

Next Mobile's acquisition of NCPI is management/leverage buy-out.

True, The Velarde Group is now the new owner of NCPI. The names of ACCRA, Gloria Climaco, Nextel International, Jose Go and Antonio Urrera are no longer connected with the ownership and management of Next Mobile.

The company believes that most companies facing challenges in the marketplace may become more competitive when ownership is placed in the hands of management. After less than one year, Next Mobile achieved phenomenal operating performance. It

is cash flow and EBITDA positive and its enormous value lies in the lifetime value of its loyal customers. No longer is the Next Mobile handset's superior technology perceived as expensive. SME's choose the IMX phones of Next Mobile to equip their teams to succeed in their mission critical operations. IMX allows SME entrepreneurs to control their communication expenses while enjoying unlimited calls. No other telecom player in the Philippines can match this compelling offer.

With the transformation and implementation of a new business strategy by Next Mobile, it successfully began its turnaround in the marketplace.

This is very much true. Subscriber base has increased in the past months. We are thankful for customer loyalty. Next Mobile is working on its listing initiative with the Philippine Stock Exchange and eventually in Nasdaq in the U.S. The

impressive performance of the Nextel USA stock in the US stock market lies on its proprietary technology and execution. Next Mobile has the same proprietary technology and is now successfully implementing and executing its business strategy.

World Communications body honors Filipino CEO Velarde

Mel Velarde, the President & CEO of Next Mobile, Inc. in the Philippines, will give the keynote address from among 200 speakers on July 11 at WCA 2003 in Washington DC about his company's nationwide rollout of wireless broadband services and successful turnaround of his mobile telephony business, the Wireless Communications Association (WCA) announced today. WCA 2003, the wireless broadband industry's premier annual show, is run by the industry's trade association WCA from July 8 to 11 in the new Washington Convention Center. Participants include US Senator Conrad Burns, Chairman, Senate subcommittee on Communications; Hilda Gay Legg, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, US Department of Agriculture; Clovis Baptista, Executive Secretary, CITEL; and CEOs and CTOs from Intel, BellSouth, T-Mobile, AT&T, Alcatel, Teligent, Verizon, Alvarion and Sprint.

Founded in 1998, the Wireless Communications Association (www.wca.com) is the world's principal non-profit trade association representing the wireless broadband industry. WCA's mission is to foster the growth of such services worldwide, including voice, data, Internet, e-commerce and video applications. Its membership is comprised of leading carriers, vendors and consultants on six continents who use broadband spectrum bands from below 2 GHz to beyond 100 GHz in both licensed and license exempt bands.

The top executive of Next Mobile (formerly Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc.) holds the same titles concurrently of IMX Broadband, Inc., an Internet Service Provider. Earlier this month, IMX and NextNet Wireless, the industry's most widely deployed provider of non line-of-sight (NLOS) broadband wireless access systems, announced their contract to deliver NLOS broadband wireless services in the Philippines. IMX will begin broadband wireless service early next year, targeting 5 million of the 12 million business and residential subscribers in metropolitan Manila, one of the most densely populated cities in the world. Next Mobile will provide the required infrastructure and key personnel to implement and manage the IMX network build out. IMX plans to partner with local ISPs to expand broadband wireless service to cover 77 million Filipinos nationwide, or 98% of the population of the Philippines.

In addition to being the first Filipino to be given this honor by WCA, this invitation to keynote this year's premiere global conference is in recognition of Mel Velarde's achievements in the field of information communications technologies (ICT). Among the new generation of global technopreneurs, Mel is one of the few who have successfully executed a set of business models in the emerging area of Convergence that resulted in profitability to systems in the Philippines and other parts of the world. At age 26, Mel completed the business plan for a cable TV business in the Philippines, which later became the blueprint of Sky Cable's success that was achieved under his operational leadership from 1991 to 97. Sky revolutionized not just TV viewing of the Filipinos; it widely distributed the power of information that was before accessible only to few dominant Filipino families. Cable TV, before Sky, was used merely to deliver Manila TV channels to provinces but was transformed into an information highway that delivered CNN, HBO, BBC, ESPN, Discovery and 30 other channels. At 34, Mel sold his shares in Sky and founded a company that utilized a satellite hub in Hawaii that provided 2-way broadband satellite Internet throughout the archipelago. At 38, he engineered a management buy-out of Nextel Communications Philippines, Inc. which is now transforming itself into a powerful force in the mobile voice and data businesses in the Philippines. Through its highly differentiated positioning and niche marketing strategies, it has achieved in just less than a year an outstanding operating performance record, hitting EBITDA and Cash flow positive and zero bank debt.

Now at 39, Mel Velarde sees all his achievements as building blocks of a personal vision for his country: an establishment of a nationwide wireless infrastructure that is fully dedicated on delivering Education for all levels as the core content to Filipino masses across all the 7,000 islands.

When asked why he gets involved in these businesses, Velarde gave this response: The convergence of Education and ICT will pave the way for a truly life-changing, fate-altering impact on the Filipino masses. My personal goal is to have as many millionaires and billionaires in the Philippines. Through cutting-edge technology-powered education, there could emerge a true middle class that will employ and provide co-ownership of enterprises to Filipino masses. Cutting edge education made accessible by technology is the only real powerful tool that will bring this vision into reality.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo recently appointed Mel as Commissioner to the (UNESCO/NACOM) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations/National Commission of the Philippines.

Mel is a product of Philippine universities and acquired technology training at USTTT in the U.S. and Israel, and took post-graduate courses at the University of Asia and the Pacific, Asian Institute of Management, University of Michigan and the Harvard Business School. His specialization is Strategy, Marketing, Finance and Information Communications Technologies.

ADVT.

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SPORTS

Friendship Games lure 4 countries to Palawan

SEVENTEEN teams from four countries will be competing when the BIMPE-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Growth Area) is held Aug. 25-27 at the Puerto Princesa-Palawan Sports Complex in Puerto Princesa City.

Confirmed foreign entries are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, (Gorontalo, Irian Jaya, Central Kalimantan, East Kalimantan,

South Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, Maluku, North Maluku, Central Sulawesi, North Sulawesi and South-East Sulawesi), Malaysia (Labuan, Sabah and Sarawak).

The Philippines will be represented by Mindanao and Palawan, particularly by athletes who won medals in the last Mindanao Games.

Events to be contested are athletics and swimming (men and women), men's football and men's sepak takraw and women's volleyball.

The revival of the Games, last held in Sarawak, Malaysia in 1997, was sealed during a meeting among the four countries last month in Puerto Princesa. It is expected to boost the government's program to uplift and revitalize the socio-economic condition of Mindanao.

The third edition of the Games also hopes to strengthen the country's relationship with its neighboring countries and re-establish Mindanao as a tourist destination and an ideal place for business development.

Marathon regionals in Tacloban Sunday

THE NATIONAL Milo Marathon returns to historic Leyte for its fourth leg on Sunday in Tacloban City, where Gen. Douglas MacArthur made good his promise to return and liberate the Philippines from Japanese forces.

This time though, the battle will be limited to road races, featuring the 20K qualifying race for the region with the top 3 male and female finishers advancing to the 27th Milo Marathon national finals in Manila on Oct. 19.

Close to 5,000 runners, mostly students in the 3K and 5K runs, are expected to answer the starting gun of the race that will start and end across the provincial capitol in Tacloban City, according to local race organizer Dr. Lucrecio Calo.

"Based on the response from schools and colleges in Tacloban City and the entries we have received from all over Leyte Island and even Samar, we expect to surpass last year's 4,264 runners," Calo said.



TUGUEGARAO WINNERS

Winners of the Milo Marathon Tuguegarao City elimination run pose with Milo officials at last Sunday's awards rite. From left are Milo P. Perez, Nestle sales representative, Pat Goc Ong, Milo sports executive, Dominador Santillan Jr. (third place), Rodolfo Tacadino (champion), Samuel Bernados (second place), local organizer Rudy Ventura, National Milo Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho and Teng P. Pagadu, Nestle sales representative.

SPORTSWATCH

Capistrano, Lipa SCOOP guests

UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) board chair Jun Capistrano and Commissioner Joe Lipa head the guests in today's SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant-West in Quezon City. Also invited in the session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing and aired live on Sports Radio, are the coaches of the eight competing teams in the league's 66th season which opens tomorrow with its basketball tournament.

UAAP gives attention to all 14 events

ALL 14 events in the UAAP (University Athletic Association of the Philippines) calendar will be given due attention when the league raises its curtain tomorrow. The colorful opening ceremonies start at 1 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. For the first time in 66 years, team captains of athletics, swimming, football, baseball, volleyball, chess, tennis, badminton, fencing, softball, judo, table tennis and taekwondo will parade and be feted alongside their counterparts in basketball. Busan Asian Games equestrian gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, an Ateneo alumnae, is the main guest in the opening ceremonies.

Age-group triathlon in Laguna

THE FOURTH leg of the 2003 Enervon National Age-Group Triathlon series will be held at the San Luis Sports Center in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on July 20. Gov. Teresa "Ningning" Lazaro who has been very supportive of triathlon said: "We warmly welcome the participants of this age-group triathlon to our province, the spawning ground of triathlon champions. All-out to ensure the success of the event serving as the link between the grassroots and high performance levels are Dennis Lazaro, head of the Laguna Physical Fitness and Sports Department, Victor Sanchez, provincial sports coordinator, Philippine Sports Commission, Speedo, Reliv and Monoc bike frames support the series.

Quiogue, 2 others repeat as champs

LAGUNA Seahorse Swim Club's Carlo Quiogue led three repeat champions in the second leg of the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon Circuit held recently at the Kapitolyo grounds in Pasig. Quiogue, who topped the 13 to 15 years old category in the swim-bike-run event organized by the Firstwave Events, was joined by Alan Joash Serrano and Charmaine Cruz, winners in the 10-to-12 age group, in accomplishing back-to-back victories in the four-leg youth triathlon circuit. Quiogue clocked a flat 24 minutes in winning the event, followed by Julius de la Cruz, 24:20, and Jinno Salvacion, 25:00, while on the girls' side, top three finishers in the 13-to-15 age group were Janelle Lynn, Angela Alon-alon and first-leg champion Josephine Pilapil. The 9-and-under champions were Monica Saldejanon on the girls' side and Rudolph Obmerga on the boys' side.

Salao, partner rule Southwoods tilt

THE TANDEM of Joseph Salao and Eric Joson scored a net 261 last week to capture overall team honors in the 10th annual Invitational tournament of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, Cavite. Marty Ilagan and Jong Laput came up with 301 at both Masters and Legends courses to bag the low gross team championship in the 36-hole member-guest event spread out over four days. Sharing the spotlight was Southwoods member and regular invitational competitor Nelson de Villa, who won a brand-new Mitsubishi GLS automatic via the raffle. Southwoods' sports and games committee chair Freddie Mendoza said De Villa also won a car in 2001. Topping the Class A division were the team of Thirly Escaño and Alex Ignacio with 269 points while Gook Hwan Sa and Shia Young Kang came up with 262 to rule Class B. Roberto Agojo and Freddie dela Peña also shot 262 to win Class C. The Class D diadem went to Onofre Banson and Derrick Santos after shooting 265.

Scholars to benefit from Fresnedi Cup

FUNDS to be raised in the 5th Mayor Fresnedi Golf Cup on July 15 will go to the 500 scholars of Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi. The event, to be held at the Alabang Country Club, is expected to draw over 150 invited guests, composed of top government officials, businessmen and senior executives. The ceremonial tee-off will be graced by former President Fidel V. Ramos, Mayor Fresnedi and Sec. Ignacio Bunye, presidential spokesperson. Tee-off will be from 6:30 a.m. up to 10 a.m. Major sponsors of the competition are Globe Telecom, Dela Rosa Transit, RENS Transport and Chesa Peak Development Corp.

Angeles posts back-to-back victories

PRIMUS Racedevils' Maico Angeles warded off the challenge of Edge-sports' Ivan Carapiet to tally a back-to-back victory in the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite. Angeles finished the 20-lap race in 17:41.830, just 1.549 seconds ahead of Carapiet to rule the KT Light division of this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastway Racing. Sharing the limelight with Angeles in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) are Brandon Angel and Archie Rubio. Angel won over Birel-A3 Motorsports Buffy Laurel, third placer Paco Rodriguez of Team Cebu-CRG Racing and Kevin Katzer in the Cadet 85 division. Rubio stunned last leg's winner and third placer Matthew Edmunds of Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile in the Formula Rotax 125 Novice class.

Coseteng, Aguilar hog spotlight

JODY Coseteng and Oscar Aguilar of Caltex-Havoline Racing Team will hog the spotlight when the 11th and 12th rounds of the SVI Grand Prix are held at the Subic International Raceway on Sunday. Coseteng has a 10-round total of 86 points and is the virtual winner of the centerpiece Super-A category. But the three-time driver of the year will still aim for a victory in the weekend racing extravaganza featuring the country's best drivers. His closest pursuer, Kookie Ramirez, is miles behind with 45 points. Havoline Racing Team captain Aguilar, on the other hand, is on the verge of grabbing the lead in the SVI Challenge Cup Over-all Category, just one-point behind co-leaders Gaby de la Merced and Mikko David. Aguilar is coming off a double-victory in the National Touring Car Championships series at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas Sunday.

RP DANCERS

Veteran internationalists John Derick Co and Ednah Ledesma show the form that earned them the silver medal in the senior Latin American category of the recent 78th Blackpool Dance Festival and Competition in England. A total of 73 dance couples from all over Europe took part in the world-class competition. Earlier, Co and Ledesma, who have been dancing partners for only three months, topped first place in the Blackpool Star Competition, beating 47 other couples.



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30%	P279,000	57,223	39,274	31,704	22,679	18,300	15,681
40%	P372,000	48,793	33,490	27,038	19,341	15,807	13,355
50%	P465,000	40,368	27,704	22,373	16,004	12,914	11,048

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30%	P279,000	59,154	40,848	32,821	23,528	19,024	16,325
40%	P372,000	50,704	34,841	28,133	20,167	16,308	13,993
50%	P465,000	42,253	29,034	23,444	16,806	13,569	11,601

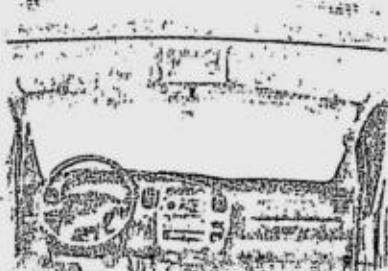
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CLUB AT	P1,140,000	570,000	47,500
JUMBO MT	P 935,000	467,500	38,958.30

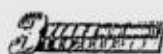
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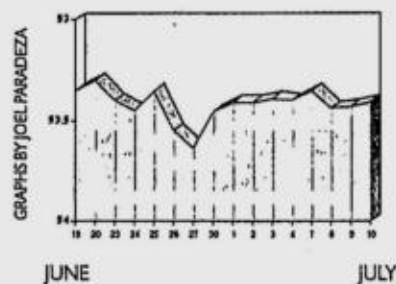


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BUSINESS

Survey shows economic pessimism growing

INDICATORS
CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.41 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., July 10, 2003

Y 117.80 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., July 10, 2003

GOLD: \$345.00-345.40

per ounce Hong Kong, July 10, 2003

July 10, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.880747	1.000000	53.467000
Japan	Yen	0.007480	0.008493	0.454100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.442751	1.638100	87.584300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112938	0.128230	6.856100
Switzerland	Franc	0.647560	0.735240	39.311100
Canada	Dollar	0.640637	0.727379	38.890800
Singapore	Dollar	0.504494	0.572803	30.626100
Australia	Dollar	0.576367	0.654407	34.989200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.336323	2.652661	141.829800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234860	0.266660	14.257500
Brunei	Dollar	0.503054	0.571167	30.538600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021151	0.024015	1.284000
UAE	Dirham	0.239796	0.272264	14.557100
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.135400	60.706400
Argentina	Peso	0.317959	0.361011	19.302200
Brazil	Real	0.308277	0.350018	18.714400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134478	0.152686	8.163700
India	Rupee	0.019088	0.021673	1.158800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231806	0.263193	14.072100
Mexico	New Peso	0.083873	0.095229	5.091600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516204	0.586098	31.336900
Norway	Kroner	0.120720	0.137065	7.328500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015277	0.017346	0.927400
South Africa	Rand	0.115811	0.131492	7.030500
Korea	Won	0.000747	0.000848	0.045300
Sweden	Kroner	0.109383	0.124193	6.640200
Syria	Pound	0.020971	0.023810	1.273000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025715	0.029197	1.561100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000552	0.000627	0.033500

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower



SHARE prices closed 0.83 percent lower yesterday on extended profit-taking, with telecommunications companies leading the losers, dealers said.

They said the Dow's weakness overnight prompted investors to stay on the sidelines, waiting for prices to soften further before going back into the market.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 10.73 points at 1,284.79 having traded between 1,275.56 and 1,286.60.

"Investors continued to pocket profits with no fresh positive news to trade on," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities, adding that even the news of a lower-than-expected budget deficit in June was discounted.

"Investors continued to lock in gains while those who wanted to get in were on the sidelines waiting for prices to drop further," added Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"But we look at this as a healthy correction, especially if the index corrects further to the 1,265 or even 1,250 points," he said.

Volume rose to 773.7 million shares but value fell to P478.2 million from 374.99 million shares worth P506.22 million on Wednesday.

There were 23 gainers compared to 49 losers and 31 stocks unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P25 to P575 while Globe Telecom slipped P5 to P695.

Manila Electric Co. saw both its "A" and "B" shares fall 50 centavos each to P12 and P18, respectively.

Ayala Corp. remained unchanged at P4.80 but its real estate flagship, Ayala Land Inc., gained 10 centavos to P6.50. **AFP**

PSE suspends trading of Wellex, e-Bank shares

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday suspended the trading of the shares of Wellex Industries Inc. and First e-Bank Corp. for failure to submit financial reports for the first quarter of this year.

In a memorandum, the PSE also said it would slap basic and daily fines on the two companies due to non-compliance with this reporting requirement.

The PSE imposes a basic fine of P50,000 plus P5,000 for every day after the lapse of a grace period for submission of the re-

quirements.

Another company which the PSE had threatened to suspend yesterday, Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp., avoided such penalty after complying with the requirements.

First e-Bank, a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., recently sold its banking assets to Banco de Oro Universal Bank. It is still drawing up a new business strategy.

Wellex, on the other hand, is a packaging and food company **PSE/B2**

INTEREST RATES

July 10, 2003-MART1

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 10-Jul-03	MART1 9-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2517	6.185
3 Months	6.3554	6.2875
6 Months	7.2533	7.1833
1 Year	7.8736	7.8914
2 Years	8.8817	8.8567
3 Years	9.6817	9.655
4 Years	10.1067	10.0633
5 Years	10.3417	10.3203
7 Years	11.2267	11.2003
10 Years	11.4717	11.455
20 Years	11.995	11.9883
25 Years	12.3683	12.3783

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

By Michelle V. Remo

MORE consumers in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific region have become pessimistic about their respective economies' recovery from the global recession, according to a survey conducted by the international market research firm ACNielsen.

The survey, which was held in May this year, showed that majority of the 13 participating countries posted a higher number of respondents who said they were unsure when recovery would occur, or said they did not see recovery to happen within a year.

In the Philippines, 61 percent of the 598 respondents do not see an immediate economic recovery. The figure was up from 53 percent in December 2002 and higher than the region's 58-percent average.

Aside from the Philippine, other

countries that recorded a higher number of pessimistic consumers included Japan, 84 percent from 73 percent six months ago; Australia, 64 percent from 56 percent; Taiwan, 59 percent from 45 percent; New Zealand, 56 percent from 49 percent; Malaysia, 53 percent from 44 percent, and Singapore, 51 percent from 36 percent.

The survey also indicated that majority of consumers in the region have pushed their expected time of economic recovery to a later date. While 66 percent of re-

spondents before believed recovery would start in the first quarter of 2004, only 55 percent believe the same now. Most of those who changed their expectation predicted that recovery would happen in the latter part of 2004.

Due to the perceived uncertainty in the global and individual country's economic recovery, a bulk of unspent money is saved for future use, with savings account and fixed-term deposit being the most preferred savings vehicle.

In the Philippines, 76 percent of money coming from deferred expenditure goes to savings, or slightly higher than the 71-percent regional average, 13 percent are spent for living expenses, 8 percent for reducing debt, and 3 percent for other expenses. "Con-

cerns over a poor economy and job security have driven consumers to defer major purchases and keep saving for the future," ACNielsen said in a statement.

The decline in confidence in the country's ability to steer the economy came despite the 4.5-percent growth in gross domestic product in the first quarter of the year. The GDP figure was at the high end of the government's 4-to 4.5-percent forecast.

Bienvenido Niles Jr., ACNielsen managing director for Southeast Asia, explained that Filipinos could still be seeking more concrete evidence of an improved economy aside from the GDP growth figure. "People are a bit more prudent in terms of spending now. But if they

SURVEY/B3

Globe, Smart top carriers in profit from text services

By Abigail L. Ho

CELLULAR service providers Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. outpaced all other carriers in the world using the global system for mobile communications (GSM) platform in terms of percentage of revenue derived from data services.

According to the EMC World Cellular Data Metrics as of April, the two dominant local mobile phone operators got between 33 and 38 percent of their revenue from data services, including the popular short messaging service (SMS) or text messaging.

The same research showed that GSM remained the platform of choice among cellular service providers and subscribers, with 15 of the world's 20 largest operators using GSM technology.

During the first quarter, EMC said there were 51 million new cellular service subscribers all over the world, 42 million of which were on the GSM platform. This translated to more than 82 percent of the total subscriber additions for the quarter.

GSM operators are also the largest in the world, with China Mobile having more than 144 million subscribers.

Lower budget deficit seen in June as BIR meets goal

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit in June improved further to less than P13 billion yesterday after the Bureau of Internal Revenue reported that collections last month hit P31.79 billion against a target of P31.56 billion.

"The deficit in June is now even below P13 billion," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in an interview yesterday.

He explained that the P13-billion preliminary deficit in June assumed a much lower BIR collection for the period. The actual numbers would be announced next week.

Pleased with the fiscal trend, Camacho said the government was also looking to reduce next year's deficit target of P197.8 billion by increasing revenue targets and reducing interest payments as a result of lower interest rates.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said that preliminary June collections were higher by P3.09 billion or 10.8 percent than the P28.71 billion in the same period last year. The agency also surpassed its collection targets and previous year revenues in April and May.

"Initial estimates show that collections are

still likely to improve for June as figures are yet preliminary," Parayno said.

In the first five months, the fiscal deficit or the gap between revenues and spending stood at P75.4 billion. The government must contain the deficit in the first six months at P102.2 billion to be on track with its full-year target of P202 billion.

Based on emerging numbers, the budget deficit this year would hit only P189 billion against a record high of P210.7 billion in 2002.

"We are sure to register a much lower deficit in the first semester compared to the target. We hope to sustain the trend," Camacho said. The improving fiscal numbers would be part of President Arroyo's state of the nation address later this month.

This could be the first time in five years that the government may keep the deficit below the target.

In April and May, the government kept the budget deficit under check at P6.58 billion and P9.9 billion against the targets of P12 billion and P20 billion. In the first quarter, the budget gap of P58.9 billion exceeded a ceiling of P55.2 billion.

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BOURSE PRESIDENT

Smart not covered by chain-listing ban

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange yesterday said its chain-listing rule would not be a roadblock to the mandated initial public offering of leading wireless carrier Smart Communications Inc.,

the main cash cow of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. The PSE's chain-listing rule, introduced in the 1990s to guard against the listing of companies which simply ride on each other's core resources, was cited

during a recent forum on the telecom industry as a possible barrier to Smart's IPO.

In a briefing yesterday, however, PSE president Ernest Leung said the chain-listing rule was not applicable on Smart, which was required by its

congressional franchise to sell at least 30 percent of its common stocks to the public by August 2004.

"Based on our initial discussion with my staff on the matter, it doesn't seem to be breaking the chain-listing rule," Leung said.

The PSE president noted that there was a misunderstanding that revenue contribution was the only consideration in enforcing the chain-listing rule.

"It should be assets, not revenue contribution," he said, noting that cellular phone service was just among the businesses of PLDT, the country's dominant carrier.

Throughout the years, the growth in the wireless business has outpaced PLDT's fixed-line telephone service, especially as the influx of the Internet has reduced traffic on long-distance dialing.

Meanwhile, the

PSE's rule states that: "A subsidiary or parent company of an existing listed issuer will not normally be considered suitable for listing if the assets and operations of the applicant are substantially the same as those of the existing listed issuer. In arriving at a decision, the Exchange will consider the applicant's business or commercial reasons for listing."

Leung said even if Smart accounted for bulk of PLDT's revenues, the wireless unit could still be listed as a separate entity.

As of the first quarter, Smart accounted for P10.7 billion or almost half of the PLDT group's P22.7 billion in revenues.

With the clarification, the PSE need not amend its chain-listing rule if only to accommodate

Smart's mandated IPO nor can Smart use the chain-listing rule as an excuse to shelve its offering.

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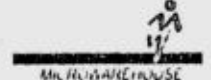
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(As of July 10, 2003)

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Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	247,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	441,200
China Banking Corp.	755	755	755	755	5,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	13,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31	228,400
Philippine National Bank	25	25	24.5	24.5	136,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	5,500
Security Bank Corp.	17	17	16.75	17	118,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.25	20.75	21	127,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.35	1.4	1.36	1.4	6,101,000
Filinvest Fund Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1445	1445	1445	1445	1,800
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1055	1050	1055	200
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.5	21.25	21.25	47,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	3,870,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	690	695	121,300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,200,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.5	5,070,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	585	570	575	154,780
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	319,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.25	12	12	1,453,400
Manila Electric Co. B	18.25	18.25	17.75	18	1,351,800
Petrone Corp.	2.04	2.1	2.04	2.1	7,706,000
Salcom Power Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	241,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.95	885,000
Kapell Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	230,000
William, Gothong & Abolito	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	700,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.5	2.95	2.9	2.95	526,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30.5	30	30	51,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	7,400
JFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	350,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	34,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	118,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.2	173,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.35	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	8,970,000
Abolito Equity Ventures	2.48	2.7	2.46	2.7	1,784,000
Ajo, Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.036	0.033	0.036	17,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.075	0.075	2,300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	25,000,000
Alcorn Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	12,000
Salabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	220,000
Breppres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.59	0.62	7,710,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	950,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	84,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.25	15.25	14.75	15	1,230,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	800,000
Ionics Inc.	0.93	1.06	0.93	1.06	3,890,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	280,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.75	250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	12,790,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	10,610,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	18,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	500,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	250,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15.5	15	15.5	33,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	2,460,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	260,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	1,550,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	88,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	8,000,000
WGA - Preferred	6	6	6	6	23,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.5	5,489,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.19	0.18	0.19	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	12,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	7,162,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.2	2.18	2.2	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	10,000
Primex Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	30,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	70,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.2	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	3,755,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	123,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	14,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	38,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,010,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	310,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.0032	0.003	0.0032	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	23,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	69,000,000
Pacific	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
SHARES					
Bank & Fin Svc	7,490,500				56,970,975.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	453,893,370				349,496,905.00
PRO	30,496,000				70,027,630.00
Mining...	176,730,000				1,113,300.00
OIL	104,220,000				421,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	772,829,870				478,029,810.00
AVERAGES					
Bank & Fin Svc	455.13				DOWN 5.42
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,834.98				DOWN 18.10
PRO	568.90				UP 3.19
Mining...	1,103.02				DOWN 6.54
OIL	1.38				UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00				UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	741.56				DOWN 5.77
Composite	1,284.79				DOWN 10.73

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 49; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 103; NO. OF TRADES: 2,591

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of Security Bank Corp. were Frederick Dy, Paul Ung, Philip Ang, Efren Aranzamendez, Anastasia Dy, Jose Facundo, James Hung, Jose Perpetuo Lotilla, Eduardo Plana, Rafael Simpao Jr. and Alberto Villarosa.

PRYCE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30, 4 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club. Only stockholders of record as of July 10 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. disclosed the resignation of Charles Yap Giok Tsee as director of the company.

PHILIPPINE Trust Co. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 29, 4 p.m. at the Philtrust Bank Building, United Nations Avenue, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of July 1 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

ANGLO-Philippine Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 30, 3 p.m. at the Santan Rooms 1 & 2 of Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders of record as of June 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research*

PSE suspends trading ...

From page B1

owned by the Gatchallan family.

Five other listed firms are facing trading suspension in the PSE by July 16 for their failure to comply with reporting requirements. These are food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp., retailer Uniwid Holdings Inc.,

property developer Fil-Estate Corp., construction firm DMCI Holdings Inc. and APC Group Inc.

The exchange also said the suspension in the trading of Banco Filipino Savings & Mortgage Bank shares would remain in place until compliance with reporting requirements was made. *Doris Dumlaog*

Garbage into gold

AT the rate the Export Industry Bank made tons of money from its Urban Bank acquisition, you would have thought that its chair, Sergio Ortiz-Luis, would be a happy man.

Yesterday, however, Ortiz-Luis, the lawyer-lobbyist masquerading as exporter, launched such a blistering attack on the GMA administration that, for a moment, the non-political members of the Rotary Club of Manila thought they had invited Sen. Panfilo Lacson as luncheon speaker instead.

Saying he "was not proud of our government," Ortiz-Luis accused the GMA administration of "a wrong sense of priorities," claiming it was "building hospitals where there are no doctors," "erecting bridges where there are no rivers," "building roads where there are no passersby," etc.

The charitable view for the Ortiz-Luis blast is that the lobbyist may just be thanking his political patron now languishing in the Veterans Medical Center for the Erap-era shotgun marriage of Urban Bank with his Export Bank.

We have just seen a copy of the just released 2002 report of the Export Bank, and we will let the figures tell the story.

Before it acquired the "garbage loans" of

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

Urban Bank, the 2001 profit of Export Bank was P35.5 million. Last year, after the merger, its net income zoomed 11 times to P380.8 million.

In addition, the merged bank was able to set aside a P290.4-million buffer for probable losses, as against the pre-merger kitty of P2.4 million. The P290.4-million provision was made notwithstanding that P1.8 billion in non-performing loans remained with the

stockholders of Urban Bank.

Thanks to the forced marriage, the Ortiz-Luis bank posted a return on average shareholder equity and return on average assets of 10.75 percent and 2.05 percent, respectively, as against the industry average of 5.78 percent and 0.62 percent.

Again thanks to the forced marriage, the total assets of the Ortiz-Luis bank grew to P27 billion from P10.1 billion, with its capital ac-

COCKTALES/B4

Gov't expects 4.9% GDP growth, 4% inflation in '04

THE PHILIPPINES' gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2004 is expected to be 4.9 percent, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

"We are hoping for a broad-based growth next year," he told reporters, adding that a Cabinet-level economic panel approved

the 4.9-percent GDP growth assumption for 2004.

The panel also assumed that annual inflation rate next year will average at 4 percent and the exchange rate will be at 53.50 to a dollar.

Analysts are also expecting the economy to perform better next year. *Reuters*

Survey...

From page B1

feel more signs of recovery, then they would start buying more," Niles said.

Majority, or 68 percent, of the respondents in the region consider a "worsening economy" to be the biggest concern. It was followed by health concerns, 64 percent; job security, 53 percent; terrorism, 39 percent; crime, 34 percent; and threat of war, 29 percent.

Almost the same figures were recorded for the Philippines, except for terrorism where 50 percent of respondents believed terrorism was a major concern, compared with the 39 percent average for the region.

"We have a higher number of people who are concerned about terrorism, most probably because of the war in Mindanao," Niles said.

With regard to the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) scare, a high level of concern was posted by respondents in Taiwan, where 78 percent of them said they were worried about the disease; Philippines, 76 percent, and Malaysia, 69 percent.

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I. COOLING TOWER 300 TR, Sunny King, bottle type	P 200,000.00 up
J. CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR	P 150,000.00 up
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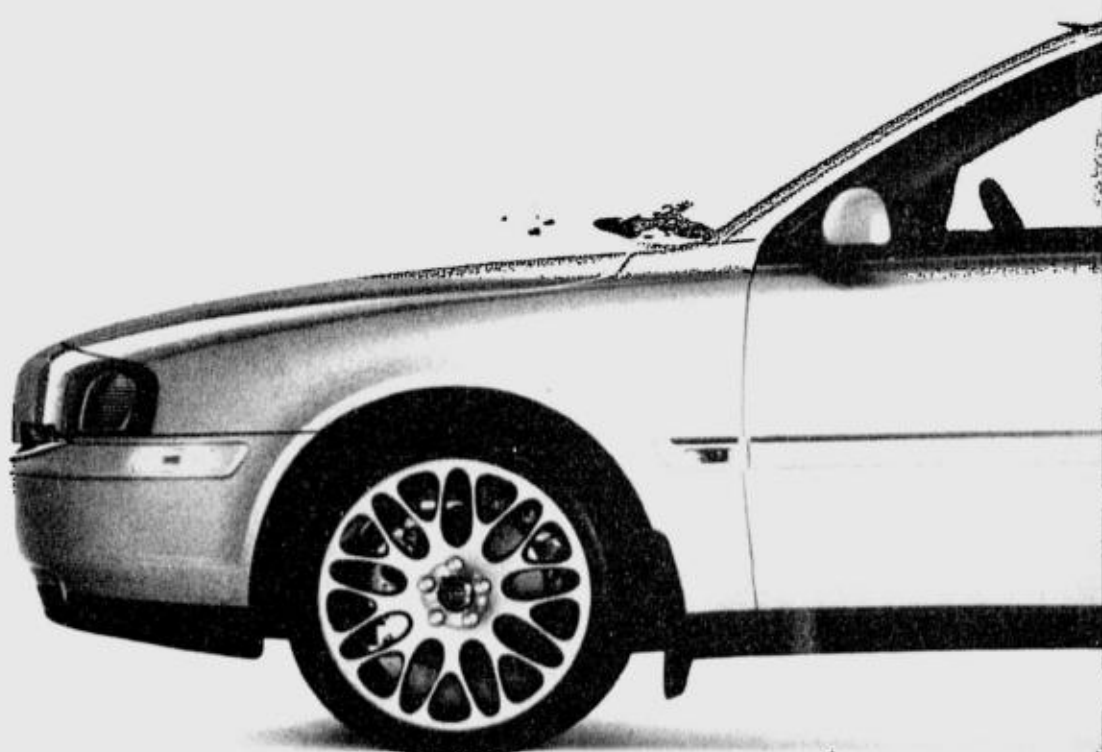
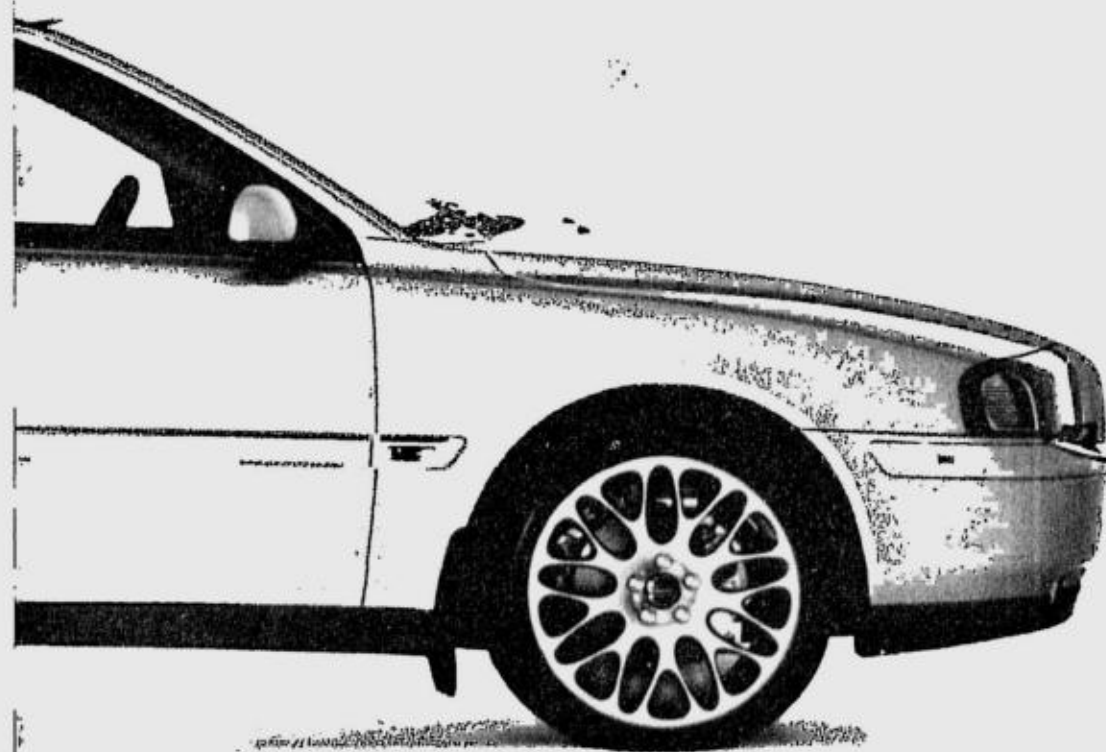
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CDC takes over Clark power plant

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—State-owned Clark Development Corp. took over the operations of the power plant here yesterday to avert a plan of National Power Corp. to cut electricity supply to 364 zone locators.

Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president and chief executive officer, announced the takeover in a press conference yesterday afternoon. He also confirmed the termination of the lease contract of Clark Power Corp. (CPC), a private power generator which owes Napocor at least P50 million.

Angeles said CDC made the move when it received on Wednesday Napocor's fifth and final disconnection notice to CPC.

"It was a timely step. We want to protect our property and investors. A few minutes of brownout would have cost them millions of pesos," he told reporters.

The firm, he said, also has land lease arrears amounting to P16.5 million.

Lawyer Victor Santos, CPC president, said the problem was with the Clark Electric Distribution Corp. (CEDC), a joint venture of Manila Electric Co.-owned Miescor and the CDC. CEDC is the electric distributor at

Clark's 4,400-hectare main zone.

Santos said CEDC "withheld" from the CPC payments worth at least P33 million in the last 17 months.

CEDC, he claimed, insisted that it has a share in the earnings of CPC as the power generator.

He said the Energy Regulatory Commission had issued an opinion that CEDC was not entitled to a share in the earnings. Santos had told the ERC that CEDC has no contract with the CPC in the first place.

Santos said he declined to make further payments to Napocor because the state-owned power firm owed CPC at least P14.2 million in overpayment from illegal connection. The case is pending in court, he said.

Santos claimed CDC's takeover of the power plant a "criminal act," noting that no inventory was made of the records, funds, equipment and other facility of his company.

Angeles defended the takeover, explaining that its contract with the company allowed such a move in events of violations, which included the non-rehabilitation of the plant's diesel engine. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Investors upbeat on PLDT

INTERNATIONAL financial institutions have started to take a positive look at Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. boosting its share price over the last few weeks.

PLDT was given a "stamp of approval" by these institutions after its strong financial performance in the first quarter exceeded market expectations. This was further boosted by the decision of First Pacific to declare PLDT a core asset and to appoint Manuel V. Pangilinan as CEO of the holding company.

Foreign investors also lauded PLDT's focus on strengthening its financial position.

According to the Credit Suisse First Bank's CSFBFirstTel, PLDT remained its top pick in the South-Asian telecom sector due to the "stronger-than-expected growth within the wireless market, a higher certainty of reduced financial risk, (PLDT's) management stability and reduced country risks."

CSFB said its positive view on PLDT was also premised on the "improved financial position of the company and the clarification of management issues." It said that the recent announcement by PLDT parent company First Pacific that PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan would keep his post while assuming the role of First Pacific managing director was also a major factor in the stellar rating.

Deutsche Bank analysts also cited the "attractive regulatory and competitive environment" as a major factor in its move to raise its forecast for PLDT earnings by 18 percent for the current year.

"We view PLDT positively in the long-term due to the strong free cash flow it generates, which we expect should generate a dividend in 2005," Goldman Sachs said.

"The company has acted responsibly in our opinion and has cut costs and capital expenditures," Goldman Sachs added.

RCBC raised P5B in tier-2 capital

By Elena R. Torrijos

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp., a universal bank owned largely by the Yuchengco family, has raised P5 billion in tier-two capital from the issuance of 10-year unsecured subordinated notes.

RCBC executive vice president and head of treasury Jaime Panganiban said the tier-two notes, due 2013 but callable in 2008, were priced at a coupon of 12 percent with the interest to be paid semi-annually.

The P5-billion offering was oversubscribed with roughly 70 percent of the investors composed of individuals while the rest consisted of institutional trust and retirement accounts.

The P5 billion in tier two capital improved RCBC's consolidated capital adequacy ratio by over 16 percent from about 13 to 14 percent, Panganiban said.

The issuance of the capital notes was designed to increase the bank's capital base and allow it to expand and strengthen its operations.

Survival and sustainable agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

SOMETIMES it helps to look at the experiences of other countries so we can improve our own. Two studies are presented here that provide helpful guidance on sustainable agriculture—one from Brazil, the other from Indonesia and Malaysia.

In the Brazil study, a project substituting chemical inputs with organic fertilizer and "natural" enemies of pests (e.g. other insects) resulted in increased yields for 20,000 farmers. A critical success factor was active farmer participation, where farmers themselves decided on the priority problems to address and their corresponding solutions.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, a farmer field school (FFS) program was conducted where 60 percent of the participants were women. This benefited 7,000 farmers as the reduction in pesticide use resulted in the increase in their incomes. The FFS program brought its participants to the field where the farmers themselves tried, discussed and improved on the technologies that were taught. An additional benefit was the increased recognition given to women for their significant contributions. In both studies, the critical role of farmer participation was essential in decreasing chemical inputs and pesticides for sustainable agriculture.

Percival de Mesa, a farmer from Mindoro and member of the Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, was dismayed that after years of borrowing money for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, he was deeper in debt. His farmland was no longer fertile from the overdose of chemical inputs and even his health was suffering.

Alfredo Alingdeo, a farmer from Benguet, was angry. After making a subsistence living from growing carrots that sold at P20 a kilo, his family now did not have enough food. The price had dropped to P5 because of smuggled carrots from China, which may not be even safe for human consumption.

Senon Nolasco, a farmer from Bulacan, was discouraged. He could not send his children to school if he relied only on the palay he planted. He said he had to do something else for a better future.

Excessive chemicals

Given their conditions, these farmers believe their survival is difficult if their agriculture is not sustainable. They are not unique. In a country where agriculture accounts for

40 percent of the labor force, this is extremely serious. But the farmers still see hope for sustainable agriculture if these areas are addressed: excessive chemicals, farm gate prices, and product diversification.

The excessive use of chemical fertilizers destroys the soil. Though seemingly beneficial in the short run, productivity degenerates because the soil becomes incapable of yielding the desired production. The excessive use of pesticides not only endangers the well-being of consumers, it also poses health hazards to the farmers and damages the environment. Dr. Ted Mendoza, a prominent UP Los Baños professor in this subject, said, "The only way to achieve sustainable agriculture is through cutting down on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. We should promote the organic approach, though we realize there must be a transition phase."

When I visited the Bohol rice project of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Bureau of Soils and Water Resource Management, I saw such a transition project called balanced fertilization. Eliminating all chemical fertilizers would have resulted in yield decreases. Instead, five bags of organic fertilizer worth P1,000 were added per hectare to the existing fertilizers. This resulted in yield increases from 30 to 70 percent and income increases of as much as P15,000 per hectare. In addition, the soil started its fertility recovery so essential for sustainability.

Farm gate prices

For sustainable agriculture, other factors should likewise be addressed.

With low farm gate prices, the farmers will simply stop planting if they cannot make enough money to justify their efforts.

This almost happened late last year. An international banking institution proposed a Philippine government loan that would be given only if the National Food Authority decreased its buying price for palay. The DA turned down this proposal. Accepting the loan condition would have meant fewer farmers planting palay due to lower farm gate prices and this would endanger our food security. If this issue is taken up again, it is hoped there will be no backsliding on the DA position.

Also affecting prices significantly are smuggling and the planned reduction of the tariffs on agricultural products in 2004.

Edison Simeon, a Cordillera vegetable farmer leader, said, "We are

grateful to the Bureau of Customs for supporting the DA in stopping vegetable smuggling. But recently, two smuggled vegetable containers were released with the approval of some government personnel. We hope this does not happen to the 17 remaining confiscated containers, or our carrot prices will drop once again from P20 to P5 a kilo. Then we can no longer continue planting carrots."

Regarding the planned cut in agricultural tariffs in 2004, the Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of farmer and fisherfolk federations with more than one million members, is asking that the agriculture tariff freeze in 2003 be extended to 2004. This is because the promised safety nets have not been delivered. These safety nets include competitive enhancing measures such as technology transfer, credit access, irrigation, and post-harvest facilities.

Product diversification

Aside from appropriate farm gate prices, product diversification should be intensified. A typical rice farmer earns only between P4,000 and P7,000 a hectare. He must add product diversification to upgraded rice technology for his farming to be sustainable. Studies have shown that planting 500 square meters to vegetables provides an average income of P4,300; fruits, P3,950, and root crops, P1,450. "To be successful in high value crops, it is important to emphasize not just production but an agribusiness system approach," said Salvador Salacup, director of the DA's agriculture and marketing assistance service. "This echoes the seed-to-shelf strategy advocated by Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, which is certainly the correct path to agriculture sustainability."

Conclusion

Seventy percent of our labor force is either directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Because of this and the importance of our food security, we must immediately attend to sustainable agriculture. Addressing the suggested priority areas of excessive chemical inputs, farm gate prices, and product diversification with the farmers' full participation is a necessary step in that direction.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former undersecretary of agriculture and trade, and chair/secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

SM's Clark mall project OKd

By Elena R. Torrijos
and Tonette Orejas,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SM Prime Holdings Inc. will finally push through with the establishment of a P1.2-billion shopping mall at the Clark Special Ecozone after the Bases Conversion Development Authority dropped its opposition to the project.

Clark Development Corp. president and CEO Emmanuel Angeles said the CDC board had approved the project.

The lease contract was signed last Monday.

The approval came more than a year after the project was opposed over the issues of location, traffic im-

plications, unfair competition to local businesses and the tax share of the Angeles City government.

Angeles said these concerns had been addressed. The CDC gave in to SM Prime's choice of the project site which is a 16-hectare lot near Clark's main gate and the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

"We're not opposing it (SM mall) anymore," Bases Conversion Development Authority president and CEO Rufo Colayco, who had wanted the company to set up the mall along Claro M. Recto Avenue, where all the duty-free shops are located.

Colayco, who wooed Sy's company into locating in Clark while he was CDC president, had said the location

of the future SM shopping complex near the DMIA would preempt the design of the planned multi-modal logistic center east of the airport runway. He had proposed the Centennial Expo (9 km from the Salakot entrance) for the SM project.

Under the proposed contract, SM Prime would lease from CDC 16.5 hectares of land in the ecozone for 50 years at \$0.20 cents per square meter per month.

This will be SM Prime's second mall in Pampanga. The first is located at the boundary of the San Fernando and Mexico, Pampanga.

The Clark project will be undertaken by SM Prime subsidiary, Premier Central.

Cocktales

From page B3

counts fattening up to P4.3 billion from the pre-merger P2.7 billion.

Luke likes he's made it

THE REHABILITATION of Luke Roxas' ASB Realty has run into a snag.

The SEC has appointed a new ASB receiver, lawyer-accountant Rosario Bernaldo, but the current occupant, fellow accountant Fortunato Cruz, has apparently grown attached to the job and refuses to vacate the position.

In fact, Cruz even managed to obtain a temporary restraining order from the Court of Appeals, stopping the Securities and Exchange Commission from removing him from his P250,000 a month (P3 million a year) job from the ASB.

According to the grapevine, no less than SEC Chair Lilia Bautista wanted to reduce the ASB receiver's compensation to P50,000 a month, considering the financial straitjacket that the hobbled real estate empire is in.

Hearing this, the current receiver, who has been in the job for three years now (that means his fees had gone up to P9 million, and counting), wrote an appeal to the SEC chief, defending his professional fees/advances.

To make a long story short, an SEC

hearing panel still appointed first, Roberto Manabat, then Bernaldo, as the new ASB receiver. Bernaldo was supposed to have assumed office last June 25, but could not, in view of the suit filed against her and the SEC.

On a more positive note, buyers of ASB condo units may look forward to finally getting what they paid for, now that Roxas and his creditor banks have concluded *dacion en pago* arrangements.

Construction of the stalled Garden Heights condo fronting St. Luke's Hospital has now resumed, with iBank having taken over the project.

Work likewise will resume next month at the stalled ASB condo project beside Discovery Suites in Ortigas, with the RCBC/Malayan Group assuming the commitment to complete it.

According to the grapevine, Roxas is still going through the wringer with Metrobank as far as the BSA Twin Tower Ortigas, beside the Asian Development Bank, is concerned. Once an agreement with Metrobank shall have been reached, the financial rescue of Legaspi Place, ASB's least finished project, in Legaspi Village should also be finally underway.

Farewell to Philam

PHILAM GROUP chair Jose Cuisia

Jr. may be on an acquisition binge, but it seems his pioneering pre-need executives are headed for the exit door.

In addition to Philam Plans president Eliseo Dizon, division heads Noli Dino and Jerry Catama have also flown the coop, with Dino currently on terminal leave before joining Platinum Plans.

Cuisia denied an item here Wednesday that Dizon left because of a compensation dispute, saying the long-time Philam Plans president decided to strike out on his own and set up a marketing agency that will also offer Philam products alongside other insurance and pre-need policies of other companies.

Incidentally, as owner of the agency, Dizon's commissions should likewise ratchet up along with business.

Heard through the grapevine

GUESS who is this publisher who launched a series of attacks against a car assembler after the latter refused the publisher's request to indefinitely "lend" a European luxury car to the publisher's lady friend?

Clue? The publisher wears a toupee.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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EU to inject new life into Asean relations

BRUSSELS—The European Commission presented a strategy that aims to breathe new life into muted relations between the European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), possibly leading to a free trade agreement.

After strong growth by Southeast Asia's economic tigers followed by several years of economic crisis, the relations between the EU and the region "has fallen below its potential," an EU official said.

In a document addressed to EU states entitled "A new partnership with Southeast Asia," the Commission said: "The EU and Asean have a strong interest in reinforcing their eco-

nomic ties."

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Only 4.3 percent of EU exports go to Asean countries while imports from Southeast Asia amount to 6.4 percent of goods entering the 15-member body.

Through the new action plan, named TREATI for Trans-regional EU-Asean trade initiative, the two bodies would introduce measures to boost trade and financial flows that would ease access to and investment in each other's mar-

AFP

'WORST IS OVER'

S. Korea, Singapore ease policies

SINGAPORE—South Korea and Singapore eased monetary policy on Thursday after their economies shrank in the second quarter, but both signaled the worst was over.

Indonesia joined in the easing, cutting a key interest rate for the sixth time since May in response to falling inflation and a stable currency.

Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand and Taiwan had already cut rates in the wake of the Federal Reserve's quarter-point reduction in US interest rates on June 25.

The policy-making committees of both the European Central Bank and the Bank of England met later on Thursday. While the ECB is likely to stand pat, economists expect the BOE to cut British interest rates next month.

The rush to cheaper money reflects a determination by central bankers to boost output and so banish the threat of deflation dogging the global economy, which is still nursing a

hangover from the bursting of the high-tech investment bubble.

The outbreak in March of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome accentuated Asia's weakness. Although now under control, SARS devastated regional tourism and high-street spending.

Singapore was among the hardest-hit by SARS. The city state said its economy shrank at an annualized rate of 11.8 percent in the second quarter, nearly three times more than expected.

"The second-quarter number is quite terrible," said Joseph Tan, an economist at Standard Chartered Bank.

In response, the Monetary Authority of Singapore lowered the midpoint of its target range for the Singapore dollar to support growth. A weaker currency helps local exporters.

Because Singapore relies heavily on ex-

ports, the MAS tweaks monetary policy not by adjusting interest rates but by moving the currency goalposts.

"Barring any adverse external shocks, economic performance in the second half is expected to improve," the government said.

In South Korea, the central bank reported that Asia's fourth-largest economy had tumbled into its first recession since the 1997/98 financial crisis and reacted by cutting its main interest rate by a quarter-point to a record low of 3.75 percent.

The economy, which is suffering additionally from the unwinding of a credit-card boom, shrank 0.7 percent in the second quarter after a 0.4 percent fall in the January-March period.

The Bank of Korea lowered its forecast for growth this year to 3.1 percent from 4.1 percent, but Governor Park Seung said the economy had hit bottom in the second quarter and would grow steadily this year. *Reuters*

US analysts optimistic on economy

WASHINGTON—Private economists have nudged their forecasts for the US economy slightly higher for the second half of the year, according to the latest poll from Blue Chip Economic Indicators.

The closely watched Blue Chip newsletter said its panel of 50 economists projected US gross domestic product would advance by 3.6 percent in the third quarter and 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter.

That forecast, made in early July, was up from the June projection. In June, analysts forecast third-quarter growth of 3.5 percent and fourth quarter growth of 3.7 percent.

Blue Chip said the improved forecast is based on a number of factors, including an expectation that tax cuts, low interest rates and a cheaper dollar would combine to provide a boost to growth.

The newsletter added that "analysts believe recent improvement in some economic indicators suggests that the pace of real growth is poised to accelerate."

The consensus forecast for 2003 GDP growth fell slightly to 2.3 percent from June's 2.4 percent. That was mainly due to a downward revision by the government in its estimate of first quarter GDP growth.

The Commerce Department said GDP rose 1.4 percent in the first three months of the year. Government figures on second-quarter GDP are due out on July 31. *Reuters*

China bounces back strongly from SARS

BEIJING—China's economy is bouncing back strongly from the SARS outbreak, with exports and factory output surging in June from a year earlier as production of passenger cars jumped almost 83 percent.

The data released by the government on Thursday may renew concern that the economy, one of the world's fastest growing, may be in danger of overheating.

"Everything's stronger than we thought," said Jun Ma, an economist with Deutsche Bank in Hong Kong. "The economy has recovered from SARS."

June industrial output was a powerful 16.9 percent higher than a year earlier as sectors from foodstuffs to petroleum processing rebounded after the SARS outbreak, the State Statistical Bureau said in a statement.

"Production at those industries that were relatively hard-hit by SARS showed clear recovery," the bureau said.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome killed more than 340 people and infected thousands in China. It also hit shops, industry and foreign investment before coming under control last month.

The strong factory data for June could fuel growing concerns that the economy is overheating. Some economists fear inflation could reignite, or that dangerous bubbles are forming in sectors such as property.

"I think it's too high for China," Ma said of the June industrial data. "If it continues like this it will further increase inflationary pressure."

Authorities were trying to curb a surge in the money supply and ease back on fixed-asset investment that has created booming output of such goods as steel, cement and chemicals, Ma said.

Industrial output rose 13.7 percent during the 12 months to May, and 14.9 percent in the year to April. Output in the first six months was up 16.2 percent on a year earlier, the bureau said.

Passenger car production, which was strong even during the height of the outbreak, was nearly 83 percent higher in June than a year earlier, with output hitting 179,000 vehicles.

Exports, which kept up strong growth amid the outbreak, were a massive 32.6 percent higher in June, at \$34.5 billion, the Commerce Ministry said. *Reuters*

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BUSINESS Friday

Marketing must: 15 reasons to put up a website

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

IT'S surprising that many Filipino businesses are still not on the Internet. It's vital for marketing, even in the local setting. Here are 15 reasons for putting up a website, and some of them are adapted from the Net 101 group.

Presence, networking

1. To say "Hello, I am here." You may not need a global audience, but there are 750 million people, including more and more Filipinos, who have access to the Net. Certainly your competitors want to mark out their presence at least to the Philippine market.

2. To network with potential clients. In social gatherings you pass out your business card to let people know who you are, what work you do, how to contact you. One of these people you meet at the party may end up as your biggest client. It's the same thing with the World Wide Web. You get to network and pass your virtual business card to a large audience.

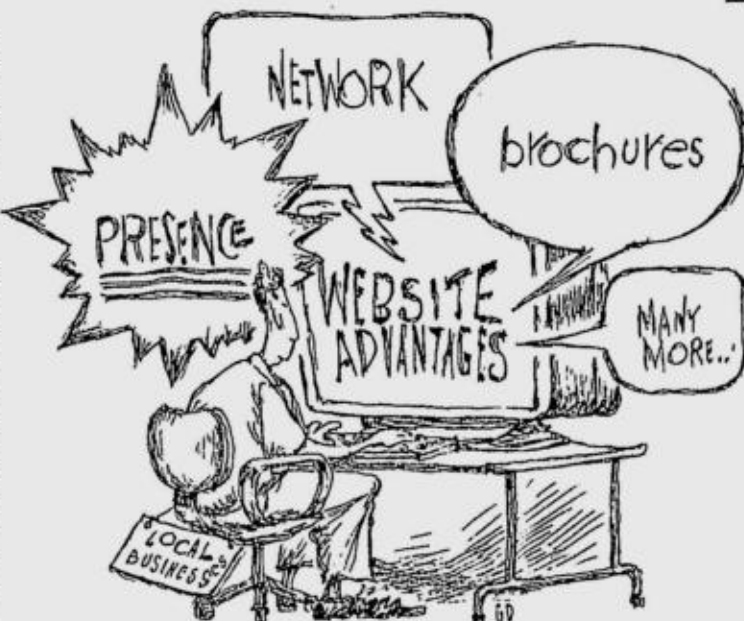
3. To provide information on your firm. Think of your website as a brochure: it features your products and services, your competitive edge, your management team. The difference is that, unlike a brochure you can offer de-

tailed information. A reader may skim through your website on a brochure level, getting basic information. Or he may choose to dig by navigating through its deeper layers.

Attracting customers

4. To attract visitors by offering related goodies. The latter include articles or information that your clients value. Suppose you manage a law firm specializing in corporate law. You can post articles about the most interesting cases, or some basic pointers for litigants, or a primer on the Philippine judicial system. It would help to turn your website into a rich deposit of information in your field, so as to attract readers and potential clients.

9. To reach your target niche market. Suppose you're running



a martial arts training school. And you have read research that those who take up the martial arts tend to love action movies. You may include in your site reviews of action movies and links to their websites. You also fill your website with material related to all the interests of your niche market, e.g. body building tips and recipes for protein-rich diets.

8. To provide samples. Let's say you're a photography studio specializing in glamour shots. Advertising the quality of your work is a must. One way to do this is to make available on the Net some of the best portraits you have taken. Surfers just click on the thumbnail versions of the pic-

tures to enlarge them to full size.

Answering questions

10. To answer questions most clients ask. After years in your business you have a feel for the initial questions of the new customer. You can attend to them by paying staff to answer their questions on the phone. Or you can save the money by posting the information, catechism-style, on your website. The name of that convention is Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). A well-designed FAQ section will save a lot of company time.

11. To answer the rare questions. Some questions are deep and can't be answered in the FAQ. They need your level of expertise. By putting an e-mail address your

website you can track down these hard-hitting questions and reply to them.

Empowering the sales force

12. To arm your sales force with vital information. As a retailer of athletic gear your main office is in Manila, but you have branches and sales personnel deployed in Cebu, Davao and Baguio. They will close more deals by getting information on your latest product lines. You can pass on this information via cell calls, very long text messages, or long distance land line calls. Or you can post a wealth of information for them on your "intranet." That refers to an internal website which only they can open via a password. Privacy is assured.

13. To issue press releases. That is the style of Social Weather Stations (SWS). New survey reports are posted in the SWS website, then e-mails are sent out to

the media to alert them of the press releases. The newspapers and TV/radio stations then download the articles, tables and graphs. Your press releases can have photos for the dailies and even audio and video clips for the broadcasters.

Payment channel

14. To transact business over your website. When I pay my Internet provider, I don't go to their office. I make my payments through the BPI website without having to sign any checks. First I enter my private account page via a password. Then the bill is settled by deducting the amount from my savings account and crediting it to the account of Philonline. The receipt is then sent via email. You can get payments online by making similar arrangements with the various banks.

15. To explore export markets. You are not interested in exporting? You should be, given the peso-dollar exchange rate and the rise of the euro. Initial deals can take the form of delivering your products via Fedex or even via ordinary airmail. They pay you via wire transfers. Who knows? Your unique product may be attractive to a large sliver of the 750 million Net market. Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>



New rules on withholding of percentage tax and VAT-II

By Martin Ignacio D. Mijares
SGV & Co

(Second of 3 parts)

A. PAYEE'S option to pay VAT through the withholding system. Just like in the withholding of percentage tax, RR No. 14-2003 gives the VAT taxpayer the option to pay his taxes through the withholding system. To avail of this, the payee needs to execute a waiver of the privilege to claim input tax credits and a notice of availment of the option to pay the tax through the withholding process. The waiver and the notice should be filed with the payor-withholding agent and the RDOs of both the payors and the payee.

B. Who are required to withhold. Assuming that the payee opts to pay his VAT through the withholding system, any person, natural or juridical, should be required to withhold the 10-percent VAT based on the payee's gross sales/receipts on all payments for purchases of goods or for services from such VAT-registered payee. Such payments would be subject to withholding provided that these arise from purchases of goods or services made in the course of trade or business (including the exercise of profession or calling) and not arising from, or incident to, an employer-employee relationship.

C. Payor constituted as withholding agent. The payor is considered a withholding agent and should be required to withhold VAT and remit the tax using BIR Form No. 1600 (monthly remittance return of value-added tax and other percentage tax withheld) to the appropriate collection agents of the BIR.

D. Effects on the payee of the withholding and remittance of tax by payor. The effects on the payee of the withholding and remittance by the payor of the 10-percent VAT would depend on whether or not the payee has only one payor from whom he generates his income.

1. Payee has only one payor
If the income recipient-payee has only one payor from whom he generates his income, the filing of BIR Form No. 1600 by the payor-withholding agent services as the substituted VAT return of the payee. This means that the payee need not file a VAT return to report the income payment from the payor-withholding agent. However, the payee is required to file a notice of avail-

ment of the substituted filing of VAT return with the RDO where the income recipient is registered or required to register. A copy of the notice will be given to the lone payor of the income. Upon receipt of the notice, the payor is required to withhold the VAT on the income payment to the payee and should pay the same to the appropriate collection agents of the BIR.

TAX-FILES

Furthermore, BIR Form No. 2306 (certificate of final tax withheld at source), signed by both the payor and the payee, should be attached to the BIR Form No. 1600 filed by the payor-withholding agent. The attachment of BIR Form No. 2306 constitutes the authority given by the payee to the payor to file and consider the payor's filing of the BIR Form No. 1600 as the substituted VAT return of the payee. The duly filed or stamped "received" BIR Form No. 2306 serves the same purpose as the VAT return (BIR Form No. 2550Q) of the payee. The taxpayer availing of the substituted filing of VAT return is required to update his registration with his home RDO.

2. Payee has several payors

If the payee has several payors but has executed and filed the waiver of the privilege to claim VAT input tax credits and a notice of availment of the option to pay the tax through the withholding process, the VAT withheld should be treated as creditable tax by the payee when he files the quarterly VAT return under BIR Form No. 2550Q. The claimed tax credit should be in BIR Form No. 2307 (certificate of creditable tax withheld) by both the payor and the payee. Since the VAT has already been withheld at source based on gross amount pursuant to the waiver of the right to claim input VAT executed by the payee and remitted by the payors under BIR Form No. 1600, the VAT return to be filed by the payee, which will not be reflecting any amount payable, should just serve a return consolidating all the transactions with all the payors which have already been subjected to withholding tax. Such return will be filed directly with the appropriate BIR office without the need of passing through an AAB or RCO.

Considering that under an instance where all the payors who are engaged in business have already withheld and remitted the VAT as withholding agents of the

payee, the latter will no longer be remitting any amount of tax. As such, the requirement of the filing of the monthly VAT declaration (BIR Form No. 2550M) is no longer needed.

Nonetheless, in case the total amount of tax withheld by the payors who are engaged in business is incorrect or the payee has transactions with payors who are not engaged in business and therefore not obliged to withhold the tax, the monthly VAT declaration and quarterly VAT return of the payee, which will be reflecting an amount payable, will still be filed with the AAB or RCO, in the absence of an AAB, of the RDO that has jurisdiction over the taxpayer-payee.

E. Filing of returns and payment of taxes withheld by the payor. VAT deducted and withheld shall be remitted using the BIR Form No. 1600 or the monthly remittance return of VAT and other percentage taxes withheld. BIR Form No. 1600 should be filed with, and the tax paid to, the AABs under the jurisdiction of the large taxpayer's service, including large taxpayer's district office, in case of large taxpayers, or the AAB under the jurisdiction of the RDO where the withholding agent is located, in case of non-large taxpayers. In places where there is no AAB, the return should be filed with, and the tax paid, directly to the RCO or the duly authorized treasurer of the city or municipality where the withholding agent is required to register. The required return shall be filed, and payments made, within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made or the withholding has accrued. If the withholding agent is enrolled with the EFPS, the filing of returns and payment of withholding taxes shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the EFPS.

F. Issuance of certificate of VAT withheld. The BIR form to be issued by the payor-withholding agent to the payee evidencing the withholding and remittance of the VAT depends on whether or not there is only one payor from whom the payee generates his income.

If there is only one payor, the form to be used is BIR Form No. 2306 or the certificate of final tax withheld at source. If the payee has several other payors as signified by such payee, the applicable form is BIR Form No. 2307 or the certificate of creditable tax with-

held at source. This certificate shall be attached by the payee consolidating all its/his taxable transactions for the quarter. The certificate should be given to the payee within 10 days following the end of the month the withholding was made.

G. Substituted official receipt for sellers of services. For sellers of services whose gross receipts have been subjected to final VAT, they will be exempted from the obligation of issuing duly registered VAT official receipts covering their receipt of payments for services sold. The certificate of final tax withheld at source (BIR Form No. 2306), for payee with just one payor, or certificate of creditable tax withheld at source (BIR Form No. 2307), for payee with several payors, should constitute and be treated as the substituted official receipt, pursuant to Section 237 of the Tax Code.

H. Duration of option to remit the tax through the withholding system. The option to remit the VAT through the withholding system once chosen remains as the manner of remitting the tax unless said option is cancelled by the payee by filing a notice of cancellation of availment of the option to pay the tax through the withholding process. The option to file under the substituted filing of the VAT return allowed to a payee with just one payor in a given taxable year shall continue to apply to subsequent taxable years until such time that the taxpayer-payee files the notice of cancellation of availment of the substituted filing of return not later than the 10th day of the month following the close of the taxpayer's taxable year. In such case, the status of the taxpayer shall automatically revert to the status of taxpayers filing the returns under the regular filing procedures. If within the taxable year, an additional client or customer comes in, the taxpayer-payee shall immediately file the notice of cancellation of availment of the substituted filing of returns.

I. Quarterly submission of sales/purchases. VAT-registered sellers of goods or services, regardless of whether or not they opted for the substituted filing of VAT returns shall still comply with the conditions set forth under RR No. 8-2002 regarding the quarterly submission of summary lists of sales, summary list of domestic purchases, and summary list of importation.



CAROL Ngo using transparent jelly for a floral arrangement in a hotel.

Trip abroad brings home jelly that sustains plants

IT HAS probably caught your eyes—jellies contained in jars and glasses made to hold a variety of indoor plants—and you wonder, "What's the magic in these jellies? Do they really sustain plant life?"

"That's what caught my fancy the first time I came across this jelly product during one of my trips abroad," says Carol Ngo of Magic Jelly. "I bought some thinking how it would be great to add color to a rather plain indoor plant arrangement I had inside my bathroom back home in Manila."

Ngo was into car accessories before going into the jelly venture.

Today, the amazing jelly has gone beyond Carol's bathroom and spilled over to Magic Jelly carts in malls. "The people's response to the product is unbelievable. I didn't expect it would catch on this quickly when I decided to be the country's distributor of this technological innovation," says Ngo. "It does work like magic so it felt so right to name it Magic Jelly."

Magic Jelly is a product of Japanese technology. It is soil and

water substitute that works best with cut flowers and indoor plants. It works like a sponge—it absorbs and releases water. It's also meant for decorative purposes—the Magic Jelly's colorful gel suspension allows so much elbowroom for creative expression since it's easy to maintain.

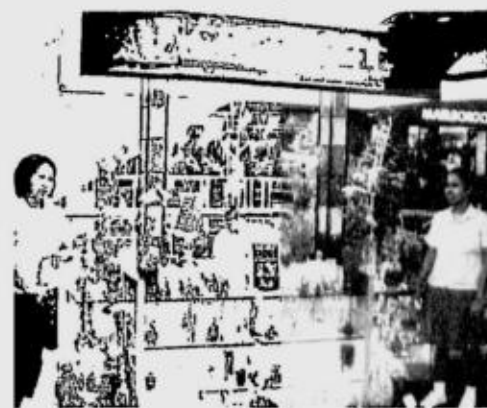
"When you wash the vase, take out the Magic Jelly first and with your moist hands put them back in. The moisture preserves the gel suspension," explains Ngo.

"It's made of artificial but non-toxic nutrients and fertilizers suspended in a gel base so there is no harm of poisoning when children accidentally eat them. It is translucent so its vibrant colors show through perfectly in crystal vases, bowls, and glasses."

Of course, nothing can ever take the place of soil and water and Magic Jelly isn't meant to replace them completely. What Magic Jelly affords consumer is a practical and playful alternative to maintain indoor plants and cut flower arrangements. It is not messy as soil; it's hygienic, long lasting, odorless, and non-toxic.

Magic jellies can be used to create variations in house decors.

Magic Jelly carts are located at SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Centerpoint, Landmark, Festival Mall Alabang, Festival World Mall Batangas, NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan City, and Gaisano Mall Cebu City.



MAGIC Jelly cart at SM Megamall.

Delivering on consumer's priority product values

DELIVERY can also be real or imagined. It's real when your brand's claimed ability to deliver on a consumer priority value is supported by a product feature that competition simply does not have. This may be because that feature is proprietary to you by virtue of a patent or being its "first mover."

This is the case with the successful feminine wash brand, pH-Care. Its pH balance is for the external genitalia and therefore for everyday use. Lactacyd's is for the vagina and therefore more for treatment of urinary tract infection as a medicine than for "lifestyle" use. (According to research, Unilab's pH-Care, which was introduced just last July 2002, now has a 52 percent market share, while Sanofi's Lactacyd is down to a 36 percent share (from 84 percent in July-August 2002). Still it is interesting to note that the Philippines remains Lactacyd's largest market. (Sanofi, a French company, must wonder what it is with Filipinas and feminine wash!)

Many attribute the success of pH-Care to its celebrity endorser, Sharon Cuneta. Sure, Sharon helped, but the foundation of the brand's success was rooted in Unilab's research and marketing strategy to position the product as a lifestyle use feminine wash. (It's interesting to note that Sanofi recently signed up movie star, Ara Mina, to endorse Lactacyd. Will that move work? Celebrities, or measuring how effective celebrity endorsers are for your brands and how and when to use celebrities to endorse your products or services will be tackled in a future column.)

An "imagined" brand performance on a priority product value happens when, for example, it is the first to claim a product value that's also in other brands. The claim is often made with advertising and promo money heavier than competition. The ad and promo investment is calculated to own the priority value. Such a brand often succeeds in getting consumers to believe that it's the brand that has that

MARKETING RX

*Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto*

value the most. It is in this sense that it's imagined. This was what the toilet soap brand, Safeguard, did with the product attribute, germ-free clean. All brands in the category have that attribute. However, it was Safeguard who poured unmatched A&P money to claim and own this consumer priority value.

Multivitamin advertising: Saying the same thing differently and better

A brand can also just say an old consumer value in a new and better sounding way. Take for example, Clusivol's promise in its previous ad campaign that it gives its devoted consumers the capacity to give "quality time" to their loved ones. That's the emotional benefit translation of the

#1 brand's (Enervon-C) claim that it is the daily anti-stress formula. It also translated in emotional terms the #2 brand's (Revicon) promise of giving reserved energy at the end of the day. These were all about the same benefits.

Being the "best" vitamin for anti-stress, Enervon-C should be able to make its taker give quality time to his family. Similarly, being the "best" reserved energy giver, Revicon should be able to do the same.

But Clusivol (or more precisely, its ad agency) found a way of saying the same old thing in a newer and more persuasive way by jumping to the higher-order emotional end benefit. (Clusivol now uses celebrity law-makers, Senators Loren Legarda and Juan Flavier to bark out the new "Bawal Magkasakit" campaign. Again, Clusivol's ad agency, Adformatix, jumped the gun on its competitors by expressing a benefit that would appeal to a broader market—especially the CD market.)

Consumers in segments where the priority need or value is in favor of what the brands in the preceding examples will switch to those brands. Will they stay and remain loyal?

As long as consumers are convinced that your brand stands out over all others in delivering on their priority product value, they will stay with your brand and remain loyal. But as soon as some other brands or all other brands also deliver on this priority value, then everyone becomes parity. Remember Maslow's principle of motivation: "A satisfied need or value will no longer motivate."

This is what makes marketing progressively difficult to do. When all or most competing brands satisfy a formerly unsatisfied or inadequately satisfied product value, that attribute becomes a minimum requirement attribute. It is no longer a motivator but it has still to be satisfied as a minimum requirement. So as more and more unfilled needs are met, the minimum requirement

bar gets higher and higher. And it gets more and more difficult to uncover that unmet consumer need by which to drive consumer brand switching and loyalty.

Loyalty is a never-ending process. No sooner have you made consumers loyal when competition creates the occasions for them to be disloyal. This makes the quest for sustainable loyalty a myth, a never-to-be attained quest for the Holy Grail.

But what about so-called Loyalty Programs and Loyalty Schemes? It seems that every supermarket, airline, retail, credit card and car company is getting into the loyalty program game by trying to "bribe" you into being loyal by offering points and rewards for every purchase you make. Just take a look at all the plastic loyalty clubs that you have in your wallet or purse. Does this make a customer loyal?

Should we tackle this issue in a future column? Let us know.

Feedback to MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com.

SMB among Asia's top brands Pay \$35 to know where your papers are anytime, anywhere

By Roger Pe
Contributor

IN a poll commissioned by Media, Asia's most respected advertising and marketing magazine, San Miguel Pale Pilsen ranked No. 9 among Asia's major brands. More than 5,000 subscribers of the magazine were invited in the annual Top Asian Brands survey conducted by Hong Kong-based Synovate, Inc.

Respondents included marketing directors/managers (who accounted for the largest chunk), followed by managing directors, general managers and executive directors, account directors/managers, media directors/managers, media specialists, broadcasters, publishers, direct and interactive players from client-side, advertising agencies and consultancies in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

The brands were evaluated on the basis of familiarity, value for money, quality, popularity, vision, innovation, youthfulness and their success in the market.

San Miguel Pale Pilsen also took sole position in the "popular for the future" part of the poll. The Philippine brand which has developed an equity for its stubby brown bottle packaging format has recently upped its image in Hong Kong. It has a huge following across much of Southeast Asia and, despite its colonial origins, has become one of Asia's best known brands.

Although it scored well in terms of "youth appeal" (36 points) and "value for mon-



SAN Miguel Pale Pilsen

ey" (32 points), it isn't always perceived as a fashionable brand by a younger segment who are predisposed to trendy light beers.

The brand recently upped its image in Hong Kong with a television campaign which features celebrity endorser Stephen Chai for its Hong Kong and southern China market.

Meanwhile, Asia's top airlines—Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific, repeated their dominance of the sur-

vey. Both SIA and CPA soared to the No. 1 and 2 spot, respectively because of their heavy branding efforts, investing in upgrading their products both in the air and on the ground.

Despite a year of crises for the global aviation industry, Singapore Airlines flew to top position because of impressive scores for "innovations," "quality," "strong vision," "up-to-date" and "most successful" parts of the survey. Cathay scored well on all counts but lost significantly to its Singapore rival in "value for money."

The "Singapore Girl" icon, an idealized version of the SIA flight attendant, which is one of the longest-running single brand image, has been the airline's single-focus marketing strategy for over 30 years.

Other brands which made it to Asia's Top 10 Brands list are Hong Kong-Shanghai Bank (Number 3), Giordano (Number 4), Esprit (Number 5), Park N Shop (Number 6), Acer (Number 7), Star (Number 8) and Singtel (Number 10).

A list of 40 brands was furnished by both Media and Synovate, based on three main criteria: brands originating in Asia-Pacific; their results in the 2002 Asian Brands poll and their level of recent marketing spend. Points were then assigned to each brand depending on how they scored on each factor. A score of 40 points was given to the best performer and one point given to the worst.

By Abigail L. Ho

PEACE of mind for around \$35 is not a bad bargain.

This is specially true for companies that need to have critical documents, including those necessary to close multi-million-dollar deals, delivered on time to almost any destination worldwide.

Knowing where these documents are at any given time is also a plus. And, being informed when the documents arrive gives security to the sender.

This peace of mind is what international courier services provider DHL Worldwide Express Corp. tries to offer its clients with its StartDay Express and MidDay Express services.

The two new services, which fall under DHL's Time Definite Delivery offering, are actually just enhancements of the company's existing Standard Express Service.

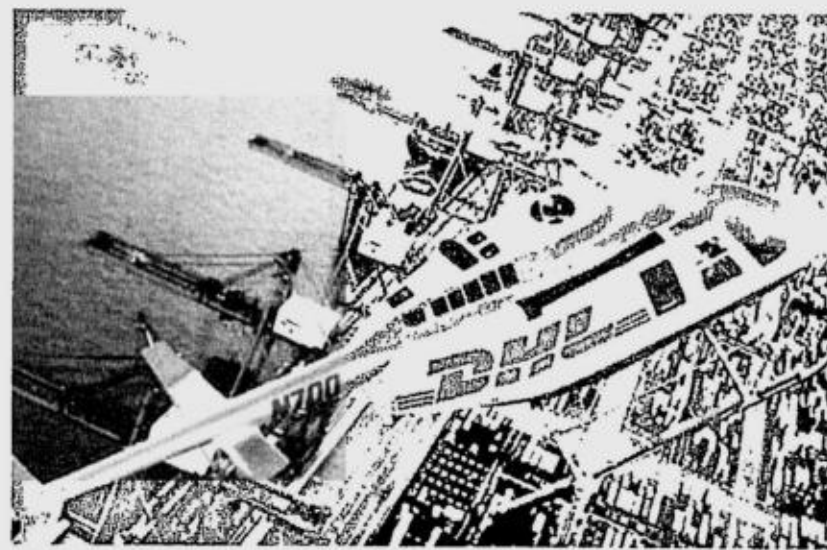
StartDay Express provides next-day delivery by 9 a.m., while MidDay Express offers next-day delivery by noon. These services offer customers the latest possible collection times for early next-day deliveries.

The services carry additional costs of around \$35 more for StartDay deliveries and \$15 to \$20 more for MidDay deliveries. DHL Philippines country manager Charles says the additional expense is worth it as the benefits outweigh the extra cost.

"Why pay for the upgrade? The services were designed for deliveries of contracts, tenders and the like—all mission-critical stuff. Businesses can actually suffer if these don't get delivered on time," he says.

The new services were launched just last July 1 in various key cities in Asia, including Manila.

DHL Philippines national marketing manager Elisa May Cuevas says choosing the Philippines as one of



FOR an additional price the courier promises next day morning and noon deliveries.

DHL's first launch pads in Asia shows the firm's confidence in the country.

Brewer adds that, based on initial reactions, the Philippine market is receptive to DHL's new offerings.

"So far, we've seen more interest here than in other countries. We got 24 upgrades here on the first day," he says.

Cuevas reveals that at least 100 customers have expressed satisfaction over the new services.

"Customer service in the Philippines is great. Our customer service people did a fantastic job of selling this to our customers," says Brewer.

Customer as boss

But plain lip service will not sell a particular product or service to anyone, no matter how wonderful the sales talk.

Brewer says DHL has always banked on its reputation of providing fast, reliable and industry-leading services to its customers, something that the company has established over the years.

"We're so confident of the service

that we offer a money-back guarantee to our customers if their packages are not delivered on time," he says.

Customers of StartDay Express and MidDay Express will be given proactive notification on the status of the package and of its actual receipt.

This way, customers will not have to guess where their packages are and what time their packages will arrive.

Brewer says having a full range of services under one roof is also one big factor to the firm's success in its field.

He says a one-stop-shop is always a good feature in a firm, especially for customers that have no time to lose on looking for different services providers that offer the services that they need.

"We have a full range of services so customers don't have to go elsewhere to get what they need. It's all about providing the full range of services: to be market-leading and to differentiate DHL vis-à-vis what others in the marketplace have," he says.

And peace of mind is not at all a bad proposition. Especially peace of mind for only \$35 more.

Missing out on teenage life results in early entrepreneurial success

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—One of the most successful young entrepreneurs in this city does not regret missing a normal teenager's life nor finishing college in seven years.

This was because his parents had already entrusted to him a big responsibility—he was made to run his own business.

Joseph Cabral, 36, has all the reasons to be thankful to his parents today. He is one of the biggest wholesalers of household appliances and wares in at least 20 towns and cities in four of the six provinces in Bicol.

At 18, Cabral was asked to take over their small store that sold household wares made of plastic, glass and porcelain at the Naga City Supermarket. He did not hesitate to accept the challenge. The store is his parents' legacy to him.

Business acumen

In 1985, Cabral ran the small store his parents gave him while studying at the Ateneo de Naga College (now a university). He says this was the reason it took him long to finish his college.

He recalls he had no time to do what other ordinary teenagers his age did in their adolescence.



AT 18, Joseph Cabral was tasked to take care of one of the family's businesses. Which he did, successfully.

Cabral says his parents guided him on a daily basis in the early years.

He reported to them what transpired during the day every afternoon.

After a year, the store had grown and Cabral's parents, who were still the decision-makers in the business that time, decided to rent a 150-square-meter space in one of the bigger commercial establishments here.

The business continued to grow in the next four years. His parents then turned the store over to him.

He decided to rent a much bigger space with a floor area of 245 square meters. In 1995, he expanded further.

Cabral applied for a bank loan and spent the money for the expansion of his store. His store now occupies half of the building.

The store has grown from the

original small stall at the Naga City Supermarket to a 600-square-meter store floor area at present.

Aside from this store where he established his office, he has branched out in another side in this city.

Difficult years

The young entrepreneur had hurdled the most difficult years in business that occurred in 1997, when the currency crisis hit.

That time he had P15 million in debts.

He says bank interest rates soared from 13 percent to 36 percent.

He studied well how to maintain his business earnings with at least half a million pesos of it automatically allotted for loan repayment while the rest for workers' salaries and rentals.

Soaring interest rates made manufacturers, who are his suppliers, adopt stricter conditions such as cutting his credit line from 90 days to 30 days.

He says he became the butt of jokes of the other siblings in his family who were also operating their own businesses because they teased him that he was only making the bank richer.

"I felt really nervous when the currency crisis hit. But I was able to repay my loan in 2000," he says.

Cabral admits he was a risk-taker that time. But admits that today, with the business much bigger, he has become more cautious and conservative.

With the sacrifices he has made, he cannot lose what he has built.

Over the years he has learned how to arrange products in the stores to attract sales.

"I have to display the appliances at the second floor of the store because their sales are not as good as the other products. That is, aside from the small profit margin that I earn, which is only about two percent," Cabral says. He displays fast selling products at the ground floor.

Good relations

He adds he has also established good relations with his suppliers. He sees to it that his record with them remains clean and the trust and confidence strengthened over the years.

Cabral follows one principle in his dealings with the manufacturers. He establishes business relations with manufacturers who are also sensitive to his interests and needs.

"We must have mutual benefits in all the transactions that we agree upon," he says.

With the economic slowdown

still bugging the manufacturing industry in the country, Cabral now makes direct importation of the products that he sells.

He says he found out that the same products that are made in the Philippines could be bought in China at half a price.

He went to China last year and made his first importation.

If not for the disturbance that the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) brought, he should have been in China at this time to make orders.

Automation

He is in the process of automating his warehouse to efficiently monitor his stocks. He is starting to computerize his warehouse operations.

At his young age, Cabral has more than enough for his future. Still a bachelor with a boyish look, some manufacturers could not even believe that he owns the store and operates the wholesaling business.

"The manufacturers whom I have talked to through the telephone could not believe I own the business. Every time that I personally go to Manila to finalize my transactions with the manufacturers, they would always ask me if I am the son of the owner," he laughs.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for prequalification and to submit sealed bids for the **GENERAL SERVICES OF PNOC EC MALANGAS COAL TERMINAL (MT03-1302)**, Km. 9, Dipalehan, Zamboanga, Sibugay.

Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's prequalification requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding. Prequalification documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Operations Services Group (c/o Messrs. George N. Alejandro, Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. Emmanuelito A. Abalos) from July 10 to 24, 2003, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (PHP500.00).

Deadline for the submission of Prequalification documents will be on July 25, 2003 not later than 3:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 of the above address.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on July 31, 2003, 3:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 of the above address.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by Contracts Administration not later than 3:00 P.M. of August 15, 2003 at PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1 of the above address and then publicly opened at 3:15 P.M. of the same date.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

Contractors who are already prequalified and accredited shall no longer be required to submit prequalification requirements.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd.) RUFINO B. BOMASANG
President and CEO

(PDI-July 11, 2003)

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**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF**

FLORINDA O. CADORNA,
Mortgagee,

—versus—

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure
of Real Estate Mortgage
under Act 3135 As Amended Act 4113

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 03-1957

SPOUSES BENJAMIN C. DOMINGO
and NELLY DOMINGO,
Mortgagees.

—versus—

"NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE"

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended filed by Florida O. Cadorna, Mortgagee, against the above-mortgagees, Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo, with residence and postal address at Bldg. 6 Lot II, Tatalan, Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of April 22, 2003, amounts to Three Million Thirty Six Thousand Pesos (P3,036,000.00) Interest thereon plus attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and foreclosure expenses. The Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff, then the undersigned Deputy Sheriff will sell at public auction on July 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Manila City Hall facing Philippine Normal University, on the highest bidders, for cash and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements to wit: TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 253065 B-1-1532 P-45

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 13-B-2-A) of the subdivision plan PSD-00-057117, being a portion of Lot 13-B-2 PSD-00-052090, LRC No. 11546, situated in the District of Sta. Cruz, City of Manila, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the SW, along line 1-2 by Callejon (2.00 m. wide); on the W, along line 2-3 by Lot 13-B-1, PSD-00-052090, on the N, along line 3-4 by Tayuman Street; and on the E, along line 4-1 by Lot 13-B-2-B of the subdivision plan, Beginning at a point marked "T" on plan, being S. 46 deg. 02' E. 836.06 m. from BLIM NO. 52, Manila Cadastre, thence N. 85 deg. 44' W. 2.98 m. to point 2; thence N. 4 deg. 17' E. 16.58 m. to point 3; thence N. 83 deg. 41' E 2.98 m. to point 4; thence P. 4 deg. 07', 17.12 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of FIFTY (50) SQUARE METERS

is registered in the name of Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo of legal age, married, Filipino citizen. Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the titles herein above described, encumbrances, therein, if any thereby

Manila, Philippines, June 23, 2003.

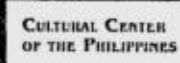
(Sgd.) Jennifer H. dela Cruz-Buendia
Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio
Sheriff, Manila

(Sgd.) Francisco C. Salvador
Sheriff-in-charge

Copy furnished:
Spouses Benjamin C. Domingo and Nelly Domingo
Bldg. 6 Lot II Tatalan, Quezon City

Francisco Benedicto III
Counsel for the Mortgage-Petitioner
Bldg. 1 Lot 4 Suzette Nicolas St.,
BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City

(PDI-June 27, July 4 & 11, 2003)



SANTONG PANGKULTURA
NO FILIPINAS

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES

wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO BID
on the following

- 5 years lease of a Trellis Area (292 sq.m.) at the Lwasang ASEAN, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City;
- Lease of a Space with an area of 204.17 sq.m. at the second floor of the CCP Administrative & Finance Bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City;
- Lease of a Store space with an area of 6 sq.m. located at the CCP Ferry Terminal, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Please send a letter of intent to bid, addressed to Mr. Ed Duque, CCP BAC Secretariat, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or Fax No. 832-3683/834-0471. Deadline for submission of letter/s is on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, 5:00 p.m.

The CCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof without offering any reason, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government, and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the CCP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in the undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) SID HILDAWA
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI-July 11 & 12, 2003)

**Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND
IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL RATE DISCOUNT AND/OR
TRANSMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

ERC CASE NO. 2003-174

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION
CORPORATION, (TRANSCO),
Applicant.

X-----X

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) on April 28, 2003 of an application for authority to adopt and implement a Special Rate Discount and/or Transmission Incentive Program (TIP), docketed as ERC Case No. 2003-174.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on August 4 and 5, 2003 both at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable MANUEL R. SANCHEZ, Chairman, and the Honorables MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA and LETICIA V. IBAY, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 17th day of June, 2003 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

Case No. 2003-174
Order / 17 June 2003
Page 3 of 3

Copy furnished:

- ATTY. HENRY P. ALOG
Counsel for Applicant
TRANSCO, Diliman, Quezon City
- Office of the Solicitor General
134 Amoroso Street, Legaspi Village
City of Makati
- Commission on Audit
Commonwealth Avenue
Quezon City
- Senate Committee on Energy
GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard
Pasay City
- House Committee on Energy
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
FOR THE AUTHORITY TO ADOPT AND
IMPLEMENT A SPECIAL RATE DISCOUNT AND/OR
TRANSMISSION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP)

ERC CASE NO. 2003-174

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION
CORPORATION, (TRANSCO)
Applicant.

X-----X

ORDER

This is an application filed on April 28, 2003 by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) for authority to adopt and implement a Special Rate Discount and/or Transmission Incentive Program (TIP).

Finding the application sufficient in form and substance with the required fees having been paid, the same is hereby set for hearing on August 4 and 5, 2003 both at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Let copies of this Order and the attached Notice of Public Hearing be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Commission on Audit (COA) and the Committees on Energy of both Houses of Congress who are hereby requested to have their respective duly authorized representatives present at the aforesaid initial hearing.

The applicant is hereby directed to publish, at its own expense, the attached Notice of Public Hearing at least twice (2) for two (2) successive weeks in two (2) newspapers of nationwide circulation in the country, the last date of publication to be made not later than two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of initial hearing.

The evidence on the publication of the Notice of Public Hearing consisting of the certifications of the affidavits of the Editors or Business Managers of the newspapers wherein the said Notice of Public Hearing would be published, together with the complete copies of the issues of the said newspapers, should be submitted to the Commission by the herein applicant on the date of the initial hearing.

In the meantime, applicant is hereby directed to submit justification for the grant of the discount and the detailed computation in support of the Php0.10 per kWh discount.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, June 17, 2003.

(Sgd.) MANUEL R. SANCHEZ
Chairman

(Sgd.) MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO
Commissioner

(Sgd.) OLIVER B. BUTALID
Commissioner

(Sgd.) CARLOS R. ALINDADA
Commissioner

(Sgd.) LETICIA V. IBAY
Commissioner

(PDI-July 11 & 18, 2003)


National Power Corporation
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2003-002

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	Inquiry No.	ABC
I	Aug. 6, 2003 10:00 AM Kahao Room	Mechanical Parts for Unit 1 & 2 of Rapu Diesel Power Plant, Viga DPP, San Antonio DPP & Pinar DPP "Dalia Perkins"	PB030806- MMAM8906	7,693,583.50
II	Aug. 8, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Room	Replacement parts for 300KW Unit 1 & 2, Camotes DPP, 3x500 KW Tablas DPP "MAN"	PB030808- MMJP8907	8,498,960.00
III	Aug. 13, 2003 10:00 AM Kahao Room	A) Supply of Labor and Materials for fuel hauling services to SPUG-Eastern and Western Visayas Operations Div. B) Hauling of Diesel Fuel to the Different Power Barges in Mindanao	PB030813- MMMT8909 PB030813- MMMT8910	8,874,800.00 35,968,940.00

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
I	July 22, 2003	10:00 AM	Hariaya Function Room
II	July 23, 2003	2:00 PM	Monroes Function Room
III	July 24, 2003	10:00 AM	Monroes Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357/9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP100.00 per schedule starting on July 14, 2003. Bid Documents for Schedule III will also be available at NPC-SPUG-Visayas, Martinez Bldg. Jorjes Avenue, Cebu City with Tel. No. (032) 2533194-2533188 c/o Mr. E. A. Veloso, NPC-WMCD Salva Ordiz Stp. Nino Drwa, Turnaga Puk, Zamboanga with Tel. No. (062) 9912757/9911309 c/o Mr. A. H. Alarcon and at Eastern Mindanao Area 125 Above Bldg., Carme St., Juna Subd. Matina, Davao City with Tel. No. (082) 2976010 c/o Mr. N. F. Plaut. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding, i.e. Aug. 3, 5 & 10, 2003, respectively. All bids (Schedules I, II & III) will be received only at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration/Accreditation issued by Former Genco/SPUG Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall comply with the following conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission of documents in accordance with the RFR of Executive Order No. 407.

The Bidder shall furnish a copy of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), and Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following (a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and (b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI-July 11 & 18, 2003)


**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Commission on Elections
Intramuros, Manila**
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Ad Hoc Committee for the Procurement of Employee's Uniform

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

"The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), pursuant to Resolution No. 6232, invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of "Employees' Uniforms," with about four thousand seven hundred sixty five (4,765) estimated number of employees.

Bid documents may be obtained starting July 10 to 15, 2003, during office hours from the Office of Director Fe G. Campos, Director III, Personnel Department, 5th Floor Palacio del Gobernador, Intramuros, Manila, upon payment at the Cash Division, Commission on Elections, in cash or cashier's check, payable to the Commission on Elections, of the non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred (P2,500.00) Pesos.

A Special Power of Attorney, made and executed by the prospective bidder shall be required should it assign a representative to secure the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on 17 July 2003, at 2:00 p.m. at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Postigo Street, Intramuros, Manila. Should there be questions on the bid documents, bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission to the BAC of application for eligibility and bid envelopes shall be on 23 July 2003 at the Session Hall, Commission on Elections, Postigo Street, Intramuros, Manila, and opening of bids shall follow at 2:00 p.m.

The COMELEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formally defect contained therein, and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the Commission. Likewise, it reserves the right to review the qualifications of the bidders after the bidding and before the contract is executed. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the COMELEC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

Qualification For Eligibility To Bid

- Only bids from the following shall be entertained provided they have secured official bid documents.
- Filipino citizens, proprietors or entrepreneurs
- 100% Filipino Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines
- 100% Filipino-owned Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines
- Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO D. MEJOS
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-July 11, 2003)


**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY**

Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. No. 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila. TIN # 000724616

NOTICE OF SALE

"As Is, Where Is"

There will be a SPECIAL PUBLIC AUCTION SALE to be conducted at the Philippine Coconut Authority, Diliman, Quezon City on July 30, 2003 of the hereunder fertilizers aggregated into one (1) lot. Said fertilizers shall be available for inspection at the PCA Regional Office in Lucena City and warehouse in Tiaong, Quezon starting July 14, 2003.

Type of Fertilizers	Quantity/No. of Bags
Ammonium Sulfate (AS)	30,380 bags)
Potassium Chloride (KCl)	11,400 ")
Superphosphate (SP)	23,780 ") One Lot
Salt (NaCl)	7,970 ")
Dolomite (Dol)	4,040 ")
Total	77,570 bags more or less

Sealed bids on an "As Is, Where Is" basis in the prescribed form shall be received together with their Stand-by Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten Percent (10%) of the total bid amount in Cash, Manager's Check, or Cashier's Check until 2:00 p.m. on the abovementioned date at the Procurement Operations Division, 2nd Floor or at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor, R & D Building, Philippine Coconut Authority, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

Pre-bid Conference : July 23, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.
Registration Fee : Php 2,000.00 (non-refundable)
Bid Bond : 10% of Bid Price

(Sgd.) DENNIS J. CALUB
Chairman, Committee on Appraisal and
Auction of Undelivered SCFDP Fertilizers

(PDI-July 11, 12 & 13, 2003)

Invitation for Bids

City of San Fernando

11 July 2003

Development of Engineered Sanitary Landfill,
Construction of Health Centers, and School Buildings
Supply, delivery and installation of various medical equipment
Loan No. 4446-PH

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (LOGOFIND), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan payments under the Contract for the Development of Engineered Sanitary Landfill, construction of Health Centers and School Buildings.

The Government of the City of San Fernando, La Union thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for:
Lot A - Medical Equipments/Apparatus
Lot B - Medical Fixtures/Furniture
Lot C - Dental Fixtures/Apparatus
Lot D - Furniture/Fixtures/Apparatus
Lot E - Hardware
Lot F - Communication Apparatus

3. Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as detailed in the Guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the City Mayor and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours from July 11, 2003 to August 11, 2003 at 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

A complete set of bidding documents worded in English may be purchased and picked up by interested bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for Lot "A"; Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for Lot "B"; Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) for Lot "C"; One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for Lot "D"; One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for Lot "E"; and One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for Lot "F" or its equivalent in a new, non-refundable currency for each set.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 3:00 PM August 11, 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security amounting to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,00

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Monday to Sunday
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

M. A. Grace Araneta Dysangco

May 31, 1950 - July 7, 2003

Joined her Creator on July 7, 2003.

Her loving husband Emil; children Jonathan, John Paul, and John Vincent; brothers and sisters Johnny and Pilar, Jesus and Charito, Rose and Hector Unson, Rafael, Angel and Binky, Maripi and Chito Makalintal, Katy and Tony Jison, Valentin and Charimen; brothers and sisters-in-law Lulu, Evelyn and Tito Dysangco, Gina and Andy Dysangco; nephews and nieces; and all who loved her in life.

Request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest with our Lord.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, July 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, no. 14 Highgate Drive, Markham, Ontario, Canada.

Donations in Grace's memory to the Leukemia Research Fund of Canada or Scarborough General Hospital will be appreciated.

PHILIP SIA TEH

(June 26, 1946 - July 9, 2003)

His loving wife Patricia; beloved sons Philbert and Phildrich; father Teh Ki Huat (†); mother Jacinta Sia; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, to all whom he was an extraordinary inspiration. He shall be profoundly missed.

His remains lie in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Necrological service will be held on Sunday, 8:00 p.m. by the New Millennium Evangelical Church.

Cremation will be at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2003 following Necrological service at 1:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

FLORA ISON vda. de SAN ANDRES

December 15, 1920 - June 29, 2003

wish to convey our deepest gratitude to all those who came to condole with us in our hour of bereavement and to all those who sent flowers, Mass cards and offered prayers; or in one way or another expressed their sorrow for the loss of our beloved Nanay. We will treasure these final moments in our hearts.

"Now Master, let your servant go in peace according to Your word,
 for my eyes have seen Your salvation."

SALUD V. RAZON

"Lola Inang"

Passed on to join our Lord in eternal peace
 on July 9, 2003 at the age of 89.

Her loving children LENI (†), JESSE, GING, NI, MAMO, LET (†), and DINA; children-in-law SAM MONASTERIO, JOSIE TIRONA, MACKIE McCASKILL and BUTCH ABAD; grandchildren FRED, TRICIA and TONY, PATRICK and MARY, MARK, MARIANNE and JONELL, JJEF and ELS, MONCHITO, RICHIE, MIKO and ARIANNA, GABBY, JULIA, PIO, LUIS, PATSY, and great grandchildren JANELLE, JENNA, JUSTINE and LUIS ask you to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret), UP Teacher's Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Quezon City.

Ma. Cristina Divina
Pinto Manubay

Joined her Creator on July 8, 2003
 at the age of 45.

Her bereaved husband Larry; children Carlo, Edward & Christopher; brothers & sisters-in-law request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Mortuary Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at the Sto. Domingo Church main Altar.

JULIA "JULIE" CAYETANO PASCO

She came to life here on earth on July 11, 1953 and
 passed on to Life Eternal on July 06, 2002.

In Loving Memory

of the First Anniversary of Julie's Birth to Eternal Life.

We, her family, relatives and friends deeply miss her presence but her memory will always remain in our hearts forever. Let us remember Julie in our prayers. We do this with faith in Christ Jesus who died and rose again to save us, and is now alive and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit in glory forever.

"There is an appointed time for everything,
 and a time for every affair under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1

MR. RAFAEL TORRES SANTILLAN

of Brgy. 2, Julugan, Tanza, Cavite

Joined his Creator on 05 July 2003 at the age of 71

Interment is on 13 July 2003, 2 p.m. at Sta. Cruz Memorial Park
 A. Soriano St., Tanza, Cavite

'FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST AND TO DIE IS GAIN.'

EUSTINE V. MARTINEZ

Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
 Died: July 7, 2003

His bereaved wife Alice Ablao Martinez; sons Nilo & Mel; daughters Mary Ann & Grace; daughter-in-law Frey; brother Eumarte; sisters Emelina, Lily, Endy & Marvil; brothers & sisters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews & nieces request relatives, friends & pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Lumang Bayan, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 15, 2003 at Muñoz Memorial Garden after 8:00 a.m. Mass.

FELINA OBED CALLEJA

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 7, 2003.

She is survived by her children Raul (Nonie), Rosario (Chito), Angelica (Jing) and Regina (Nene); grandchildren Dondi, Kris & Mia, Jonas & Nica, Rick & Rachelle, Imar & Angelie.

Her remains lie in state at the Lignon Hill Memorial Chapel, Diversion Road, Bugtong, Legaspi City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 12, 2003 after 8:00 a.m. Mass at Daraga Church, Daraga, Albay.

In Loving Memory
 on the 15th Death Anniversary of
 our beloved brother

ENG'R. RAUL S. DAVID

(of San Nicolas Ist., Lubao, Pampanga)

Who died on July 11, 1988.

His family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray
 for the eternal repose of his soul in GOD'S EVERLASTING LIGHT.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
 3F Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Avenue, Angono, Rizal
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 Telefax 651-0756

Helping in the Grief of Many People
INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
ELIZITA T. ORTEGA	JULY 11	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	Forest Hills Memorial Chapel Novaliches
FEDERICO M. QUETULA Sr.	JULY 12	8:00 A.M.	Holy Gardens Valley Mem. Park, Angono City	Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Chapel St. Andrew Drive, Palmaria in & IV Taytay, Rizal

www.holygardens.com
 E-mail address: sales@holygardens.com

DEATH NOTICES

RAYMUNDO C. PARAISO, SR.

Died July 2, 2003 at the age of 80.

Body lies in state at Funeraria Nacional Araneta Ave., Quezon City.
 Interment tomorrow, July 12, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches, QC.

RUTH C. GONZALES

Died on July 6, 2003

Her body lies in state at the Church of Christ Chapel
 1073-H F. Yuseco Ct., Tondo, Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at Eternal Gardens.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
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 243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
 Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
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 Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
 Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City: Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
 Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City: Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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 #2 Bayani St., Gatas, Quezon City:
 Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
 #42 Upper Kalakutan, Olongapo City
 Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
 Pasay Road, Makati City: Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
 Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguli, Manila
 Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
 219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
 Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
 Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
 Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City: Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
 No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City: Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
 M. Almada St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3802

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
 187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
 865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
 Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
 Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
 145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
 Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
 Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
 Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
 Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
 Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
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 143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
 Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
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 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucal, Parañaque, Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
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 Arellano St., Dagupan City, Tels. (075) 515-5960; 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
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 East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
 Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
 16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaoc, Manila. Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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 296 Quezon Ave. Quezon City, Tels. 372-5084; 410-9289/87
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 Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ① Copy of Death Certificate ② Any Identification document (I.D.)

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People, Events & Products

Creba holds workshop on new marketing ideas

SPROUTING in Metro Manila and urban centers elsewhere for sometime now are residential medium-rise buildings and private villages. Is a housing glut in the offing?

This much is admitted by the experts: there will be if the developers with their real estate professionals fail to earnestly search for new ideas in marketing.

Thus, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba), is holding a pre-convention workshop on "New Concepts and Strategies in Real Estate Marketing" on July 18, Friday, at 12:30 to 4 p.m. at the JV 225 Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Aced, Makati City.

Innovative marketing ideas are indispensable tools in expanding one's clientele here and around the globe. Workshop speakers will come from Empire East Properties Inc. led by pres-

ident Zenaída M. Marquez, Ayala Land Sales Inc. led by general manager David L. Raphael, Salesman Center Inc., president Dioscoro "Jun" Garing; and Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig Fund) vice-president for international group Emeterio "Jun" Gonzalez. They will share their success formula on real estate marketing, then provide a panel discussion and question-and-answer period.

Aside from new subdivisions or villages in off-beaten paths outside Metro Manila, the new housing thrust appears to be for medium-rise structures for middle-income families, backed by government development financing, right in the heart of the metropolis. Urban planners are responding to the need for managers, supervisors and even employees to be near their workplaces to cut on travel time and costs.

Expected to join the Creba workshop are developers, contractors, builders, private funders, real estate professionals, and manufacturers and suppliers.

Sammy G. Valencia is chair of the Creba pre-convention committee with members Avelina Acuña, Florante Ofrecio, Choy Alans and Rose Basa. The committee is under Cluster 7 of the Creba annual convention committee under lawyer Luis Panglilan Jr. as overall vice chair.

The Creba 30th national convention in Mimosa Estate, Clark Field on Oct. 2, 3 and 4 will be held jointly with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUD-CC). The convention will be co-chaired by Housing Secretary-HUD-CC chair Michael T. Defensor and Creba presidential adviser and overall convention chair Pedro C. Tario.



ICTSI ON 2ND YEAR WITH BROADBAND PHILIPPINES

International Container Terminal Services Inc (Ictsi), one of the largest port operators in the Philippines, recently renewed its partnership with Broadband Philippines Inc. (BBPH). Ictsi, being a major player in the shipping and freight industry, requires fast and efficient access to the Internet that only BBPH can provide. Now on its second year with BBPH, Ictsi will further

benefit from the technological advancements BBPH provides to its customers. Shown, from left, are Vanessa Casimiro, head, ISP/data center-BBPH, May Villa, vice president for corporate sales and customer service-BBPH, Elmore Ignacio, manager, management information systems-Ictsi and Joey Tanlajura, business solutions manager-BBPH.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Dr. Luis F. Orosa, outgoing president of the International College of Dentists-Philippines, hands over to Dr. Antonio A. Baldemor, incoming president, the ICD Medallion of Office during elaborate turnover ceremonies recently at the Columbus Hall of the Dis-

covery Suites in Ortigas Center. Witnessing the changing of the guard is Local Government Secretary Jose Lina (center), the Inducting officer and guest of honor. Baldemor is a member of the Board of Dentistry of the Professional Regulation Commission.

Montgomery Place's new easy payment schemes

PEOPLE in search for the perfect home at the heart of Quezon City are in for a special treat as real estate leader Ayala Land Inc. offers new and easy payment schemes for Montgomery Place.

Further making the good life within your reach, Montgomery Place is offering flexible payment schemes with reduced premiums for Phases 2 and 1B. Buyers can save as much as 15 percent and take advantage of schedules, such as placing a minimum of 10 percent downpayment, another 10 percent over six to eight months, and the remainder with an assurance of bank financing. It's Ayala's way of treating their buyers towards owning their dream home in Quezon City.

In addition, June 29 marked the beginning of an exclusive two-month-long promo wherein buyers who reserve and make their corre-

sponding downpayments 30 days after reservation will be entitled to avail themselves of an exciting choice between a Home Entertainment Package or a Home Improvement Package.

The Home Entertainment Package consists of a Philips 25-inch flat screen TV unit and a Pioneer 5-disc DVD/VCD home theater system with 5 speakers and subwoofer. The Home Improvement Package is comprised of a voucher worth P50,000 for interior design or landscaping services of choice.

Montgomery Place is a townhouse community designed on the genteel lines of the gracious American South. It is located along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

Interested? Call and inquire at 848-5000 or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph or e-mail ayalaland.com.ph.



GLOBE BUILDS HOMES

Answering the call of Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation in providing decent housing for the poor, Globe Telecom's top management and employees recently participated in their Dream Build 2003 activity. A total of 160 Globe and Isacom employees volunteered to build houses simultaneously in key areas in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. Apart from offering volunteer work in building houses, Globe and Isacom employees also raised cash donations for the foundation to help finance its nation-

wide housing projects. For this year, Globe sponsored and helped build a total of four houses-two in Taguig, one in Cebu and one in Davao. This is the fifth year Globe Telecom is participating in the worldwide house-building activity. Shown putting up concrete blocks at the build site in Taguig are Globe Telecom executives headed by corporate and regulatory affairs SVP Rodolfo Salalima (center), human resource head Cesar Mañalac (left) and strategic staffing and employee relations head Ruel Maranan.

Astoria Plaza's weekend specials

EXPERIENCE the comfort and amenities of a fully-serviced residential suite with the homey touch right in the heart of the city. Avail yourself of Astoria Plaza's Hang-Over Special. Enjoy a private, leisurely, uninterrupted stay at the Astoria's luxurious 1-bedroom suite for only P2,300 a night or the bedroom suite for P3,300 both with breakfast buffet. Check in after midnight on a Saturday and check-out Monday morning refreshed and renewed.

For an added treat, give yourself a break and take advantage of Astoria Plaza's Sunday Siesta Room Promo. Spend a long Sunday and make it worthwhile. Check-in in a 2-bedroom suite before 10 a.m. and relax for 12 hours for only P2,800. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet breakfast or merienda to complete your day.

Astoria's Hang-Over and Sunday Siesta Room Packages also include complimentary use of Astoria's gym and swimming pool, a special discount coupon given for your next visit and free parking space. Above room rates are subject to service charge and applicable government tax. Astoria Plaza's Weekend Specials is valid until Aug. 31.

The 35-story Astoria Plaza consists of fully serviced residential suites conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. The Astoria Plaza is in close proximity to the Makati central business district and is a short distance to top business addresses, academic institutions, shopping malls, entertainment facilities and sports facilities. The Astoria Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotel and Resorts. For inquiries and reservations call 687-1111.



lovers are in for a treat with a series of art workshops sponsored by MC Home Depot, a distributor of home improvement needs and fancies, to be held at the MC Home Depot branch office at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig starting July 3. Those interested in silicon rubber mold-making can attend a one-day experience on July 11. On July 12 and 13, the lecture on Artistic Aromatherapy Candle Making with Decorative Making features the latest must-learn techniques and principles in the craft. Drawing and painting tutorials will be available by appointment during weekdays. The Universal Craft Tutorial Course is a training program consisting of any five topics according to the participating needs and wants. For registration, interested parties can call 815-4772 or 815-3757.

BSP on 'Kartada Alas'

THE PROGRAMS offered by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on its 10th anniversary will be featured in tonight's episode of "Kartada Alas" at 11 p.m. on IBC 13. The program is produced by lawyer Francis O. Raquel-Santos and Nixon Salimbanon of K-Line Media Exponent. Guests include Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura, Joselito T. de la Cruz, president of Opportunity Microfinance Bank, Dr. Vicente B. Valdepenas Jr., Monetary Board member, Deputy Governor Armando L. Suratos, and Fely R. Calalo, entrepreneur/microfinance beneficiary. "Kartada Alas" is presented by the BSP, LTO, PCSO, DAR and Shopping Carnival at the World Trade Center to be held from Aug. 1 to 3. The show is hosted by Efrén "Choy" Alas, Undersecretaries Wency T. Andanan, Charlie Avila and Dr. Egle Ong.

CPA PASSER

DENNIS D. Villamin, the son of Danny and Bernadette Villamin, has just passed the CPA board examination given this May. Dennis took his oath June 23 at the PICC conducted jointly by the Picpa and PRC. The affair was graced by Emelita Boncodin. Dennis was among the top placers in the pre-Board exam conducted by the Resa Review Center.



PRO teachers' training

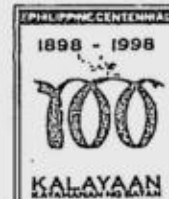
THE PHILIPPINE Robotics Olympiad (PRO) will conduct a free teacher's training seminar from July 11 to 12 for all schools interested in participating in the upcoming Olympiad. The PRO is a science, technology, and educational event offering the country's promising elementary and secondary students an opportunity to expand their horizons through the exploration of robots and robotic systems in schools using the Lego Education Set. The PRO offers extensive exposure to the winning teams, as the grand awardees per level will have a chance to represent the Philippines in the International Robotics Olympiad (IRO) to be held in Seoul, Korea in November. The 2 Philippine Robotics Olympiad is made possible by Felta Multi-Media Inc. with the Philippine Science Centrum as implementing agency.

MC Home Depot crafts workshop

IT'S AN "Art Inspiration" to the max this July. Art



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila



IN THE MATTER OF

REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATE
OF REGISTRATION

X -----X

ORDER

WHEREAS, all corporations are required to submit annual reports such as the General Information Sheet and Financial Statements pursuant to Sec. 141 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) show that there are many corporations who failed to submit the abovementioned reports for the last six (6) consecutive years, i.e. for period 1997-2002;

WHEREFORE, NOTICE is hereby given that those corporations registered from 1976 to 1984 who failed to submit the said reports are directed to appear within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Order before the Law and Regulation Division, Company Registration and Monitoring Department of this Commission at the 3rd Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Mandaluyong City during office hours and show cause why their Certificates of Registration should not be revoked.

After the lapse of the said thirty (30) day period and the said delinquent corporations have not updated their files, as well as, settled the corresponding fine or penalty, their Certificate of Registration shall be deemed revoked.

Let this Order be published once in a newspaper of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, July 8, 2003.

(Sgd.) BENITO A. CATARAN

Director

Company Registration and Monitoring Department

BUSINESS

eitsc
European IT Service Center

AMA
American Management
Association

eccp
EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE PHILIPPINES

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22-24 July 2003, 9 AM – 5 PM, Makati Shangri-la

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Gain the management skills to effectively run the IT department, make good management and technical decisions and leverage your IT resources to support the business and enhance organizational profitability.

This three-day seminar provides a step-by-step guide to successfully managing projects, people and priorities. Because operational expertise is the key to success, eighty percent of the seminar focuses on finance and operations—budgeting, scheduling forecasting, project management, vendor selection and software/systems testing—while twenty percent of the course is devoted to people skills.

How you'll benefit:

- Obtain world-class tools and techniques for efficiently managing your IT department
- Acquire budgeting, forecasting and scheduling skills
- Successfully deliver projects on time and within budget
- Overcome obstacles to success—within the department and across the organization
- Increase your ability to lead, manage and motivate your IT team
- Communicate effectively with senior IT managers, department managers and end users

Customer Service Excellence: How to Win and Keep Customers
30-31 July 2003, 9 AM – 5 PM, Makati Shangri-la

Only better, faster service will keep your customers coming back.

In today's customer-oriented business environment, "people skills" are critical for personal and organizational success. How you handle your customers can directly affect your individual goals as well as your team and company's performance. This seminar gives you the skills you need to communicate professionalism, gain respect, enhance customer relationships and secure an overall competitive advantage.

How you'll benefit:

- Deliver better, faster service
- Increase customer satisfaction
- Gain repeat business
- Increase your credibility with customers—and your value to your organization
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Net portfolio investments up 15% to \$225M as of June

By Clarissa S. Batino

AS IMPROVING fiscal numbers attracted more "hot money" investors to local shores, portfolio investments yielded a net inflow of \$225.3 million in the first six months or 15 percent higher than the \$194.9 million in the first half of 2002.

The hot money inflow already exceeded last year's net inflow of \$202 million.

Despite this, investment in the local stock market during the period registered a net outflow of \$25 million, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Data submitted to the BSP by five custodian banks showed that in June alone, net portfolio funds stood at \$65.8 million, or \$38.8 million more than the \$27 million in the same period last year although slightly lower than the \$74.1 million in May. Inflow of \$162.5 million outpaced outflow of \$96.7 million in June.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that foreign investments in government securities registered an inflow of \$99.8 million while foreign currencies lodged by non-residents as peso deposits contributed an inflow of \$150.5 million.

"On the other hand, investments in securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange posted a net foreign exchange outflow of \$25 million," said Buenaventura.

Month-on-month, investments fell



BUENAVENTURA

as local interest rates started to decline while the local currency remained stable.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate stood at only 5.33 percent during last Monday's auction from about 7.4 percent in May.

Interest rates have started to soften as the government reported that it met the budget deficit target for the second straight month in May. Preliminary numbers for June were also promising.

The central bank believed that portfolio investments would continue to improve particularly after the policy-making Monetary Board eased the overnight rates by 25 basis points last

July 2 to 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending.

Foreign portfolio funds are normally invested in the stock market, government securities, mutual funds and insurance.

Inbound funds in the first six months stood at \$548.6 million while outbound funds stood at \$323.3 million.

The largest amount of inflow was posted during the months of April, May and June as concerns over the Middle East conflict eased, the central bank said.

Net portfolio investments grew 194 percent last year to \$202 million from \$68.7 million in 2001.

Analysts said the diminishing risks in the local market due to improving fiscal numbers were making peso investments more attractive for foreigners.

The central bank said it was expecting more portfolio funds to flow in the coming months alongside an increase in foreign direct investment as the economy continues to perform well despite the challenges.

The government said it would meet its economic growth target of 4.2 percent this year, keep inflation rate way below the projected 4.5 to 5.5 percent, and contain the deficit below the P202-billion ceiling.

The central bank data on portfolio funds came from Citibank N.A., Standard & Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, and ING Barings. These five foreign banks account for 95 percent of total foreign fund flow.

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	SRP	20% DP*	24 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
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L300 FB SINGLE AIRCON	670,000	79,000	22,876	16,394	11,643
L300 FB DUAL AIRCON	585,000	77,000*	23,478	16,795	11,950
L300 AF	494,000	73,800	19,826	14,182	10,091
L300 WT	502,000	76,400	20,147	14,412	10,254
L300 PET	515,000	78,000	20,668	14,785	10,520

Low Monthly Plans / 0% Interest Plans

	59% DP	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
L300 FB BARE	212,500	22,788	15,139	12,237	9,754	7,063	6,228
L300 FB SINGLE AIRCON	285,000	23,750	15,833	12,625	9,931	7,287	6,426
L300 FB DUAL AIRCON	292,500	24,375	16,250	12,188	9,130	7,307	6,496**
L300 AF	247,000	20,583	13,722	11,197	8,010	6,483	5,699
L300 WT	251,000	20,917	13,944	11,397	8,153	6,579	5,801
L300 PET	257,500	21,458	14,308	11,723	8,386	6,787	5,957

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L300FB
Maaasahan Sa Negosyo.

Hurry! Promo ends July 31, 2003.

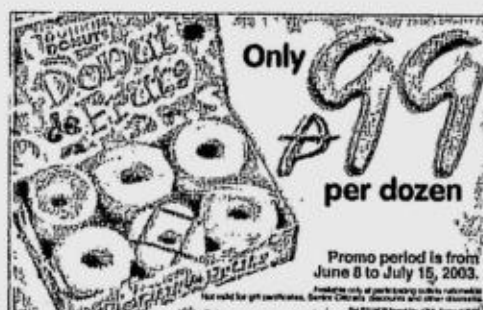
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



It's Alice's turn to invade Japanese movies



By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Alice Dixon will invade Japanese cinema when she plays a lead role in the Japanese-produced movie that will have the Filipino title "Kumain Ka Na Ba?"

The film is based on the true story of a Japanese farmer named Masao who came to the Philippines in search of a better life, according to Dixon.

Dixon portrays the role of Filipina waitress Christina, opposite Japanese actor and producer Yasuo Daichi, who plays Masao.

Hideo Nambu, who has directed dramas on Japanese television, radio and movies, directs "Kumain Ka Na Ba?" for an independent film outfit called Leona Company.

Komatsu Bara, who received rave reviews for his work in the movie "Unagi" at the 50th Cannes International Film Festival, is the movie's director of photography.

"Kumain Ka Na Ba?" will be shown in Japan before the end of the year and in the Philippines in the second quarter of 2004, Dixon told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

She said her scenes were mostly filmed in

Subic, Baguio, Rizal and Laguna. Some scenes are still to be shot in Japan in the next few months.

Dixon was last seen in the Jose Careon action movie "Sambahin ang Ngalan Mo" opposite Eddie Garcia. The movie won for her the best actress award in the 1998 Manila Film Festival.

In 1998, she moved to Vancouver with her husband, Ronnie Miranda, but she came back to the Philippines in 2001 and joined the cast of GMA 7's soap "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw," now on its fourth season.

It was after seeing Dixon in "Ang Iibigin ay

DIXSON crosses the line to play the Filipina wife of a Japanese farmer. In real life, she is wife to Ronnie Miranda (inset). RON DALY

IT'S ALICE'S C7

YESTERDAY ONCE MORE: Rico J, Hajji, Rey, Nonoy and Marco together

/C2



Adam Sandler in 'Punch-Drunk Love': Valentine to the sad and wounded

/C4



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It's
yesterday
once
more as
the five
singing
gentlemen
prove
they
have not
lost their
touch



Singers and gentlemen + Rico J

TOGETHER "Just Once" are (above, from top, clockwise) Nonoy Zuñiga, Hajji Alejandro, Rico J. Puno, Marco Sison and Rey Valera, who have not really changed much since the '80s (right, in the same order)

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

CHECK out any videoke or karaoke bar in the country, and, chances are, one of the closet singers there is going to dish out at least one of the many and memorable hits of Rico Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Rey Valera, Nonoy Zuñiga and Marco Sison.

And why not? These five gents have been making Philippine music richer with their music. And they have also been making Filipinos here and abroad happy in a big way, from the '70s to the present.

It's yesterday once more as the five singing gentlemen prove they have not lost their touch, in a show billed "Greatest Hits Just Once—The Concert" on Aug. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Have these five men always been friends?

"Yes," says Hajji. "Yung rivalry naman noon sa field namin, paramihan lang ng hits. But on a personal level, magkakapareho kami ('McArthur's Park,' for instance)."

"Oh, yes," Rico J agrees. "Ako ang kanilang parang point man. Lately, we've been meeting at my bar (Corik's at Kingswood Tower in Makati City), with or without a show to prepare for. As for rivalry, there was a time we had to close the recording studio para hindi malaman kung ano ang ini-record namin. I started by singing English songs na nilalagyan ko ng Filipino translation sa gitna. Si Hajji naman doon sa adaptation pumasok. Minsan nagkakapareho kami ('McArthur's Park,' for instance)."

"We knew each other before," says Nonoy. "But we became friends only now. Si Marco, matalag ko nang friend because we're in the same batch. In fact, magkumpare kami. Hajji, Rico and Rey were ahead by five to six years."

"But we got closer because of this project," says Marco. "Nonoy and I are magkumpare. We're from the '80s kaya kami ang mas magkakilala."

"Ibang recording company sila," says Rey. "Nasaksak lang ako in between. Meron ding rivalry pero healthy naman."

What does each think of the others?

"I have nothing but respect for my fellow artists, especially singers," says Hajji. "Ever since I started, ang feeling ko maluwag ang music industry for people who have something new to offer and have what it takes to be accepted by the public."

Rico, ever the naughty one, says, "Si Marco, hanggang ngayon, sumasakit ang tiyan niyan bago mag-show. Hihingi sa akin ng sigarilyo, pupunta sa restroom. Si Hajji, alam ko kung nate-tense kasi kung anu-ano ang nireklamo, pinapakialaman ang sound system. Ako naman, I'm there to give them psychological and emotional support."

Says Nonoy, "Hinahangaan ko si Rico kasi nauna siya sa akin at saka iba ang style niya. He really started Filipino pop music. Iba rin ang style ni Hajji, suwabe siya. Si Rico ang brusko. Suwabe rin si Rey pero matindi ang mga songs niya. Wala akong masabi kay Marco, balladeer talaga 'yan. At saka as a singer, very powerful ang boses niya and he can sing with a lot of emotion."

Says Marco, "Si Nonoy as a singer, he's good. As a person, he's not very open. He's reserved but he can be friendly and approachable. Rico is the total performer. Hajji is not really my idol but I like some of his songs. I like Rey's compositions very much, especially 'Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo.' I guess he's basically a romantic. I can understand his feelings because I love to sing romantic songs."

Rey says, "Rico is an awesome performer. Kahit saan mapunta 'yan—colegiala, mayaman, mahirap. Si Marco, mas palangiti ngayon. Noong mapanood ko si Nonoy dati, tumayo lang 'yan, laglag na silang lahat."

How have you evolved as artists?

Hajji: Mas magaling si Pareng Rico ngayon. Ako, modesty aside, I feel that through the years, as a performer, I've improved a lot. It comes with experience. In the beginning, masyadong kang kinakabahan. Nakakalimutan mo 'yung gusto mo sa stage. 'Tapos, stiff ka sa stage dahil conscious ka sa sarili mo. Not anymore. You can say whatever you want to say. You're now more comfortable



Rey: Gusto ko
ang image ni Rico
na sumikat kahit hindi
guwapo. Binigyan niya
ng hope ang mga
mukhang common

with the audience, and they're more comfortable with you. You perform well because you're more relaxed on stage. So, I think all of us have become better performers.

Rico: Oo naman, mas gumaling. The reason: We were able to learn and study our audience. Modesty aside, I've mastered my audience. I don't just sing to them. Kailangan parang party ang dating. Sila naman, nawala na ang mga inhibitions nila. When we are on stage, iba na kami.

Nonoy: Nandoon pa rin ang aming distinct styles pero mas nag-improve, nag-mature. Yes, we've become better performers. I know I've improved a lot with my voice because when I listen to my earlier recordings, I tell myself, I can still improve that voice. And in handling a show, I'm better now.

Marco: We basically sing ballads, which I think embody the true sentiments of Filipinos. But as performers, of course, we have to sing all kinds of songs. I'm more open now to upbeat and new tunes.

Rey: Nag-start ako na takot na

takot sa tao. Pero ang advice sa akin ni Willie Nepomuceno, isipin ko lang na mga kamag-anak at kaibigan ko ang mga nanood sa akin para hindi ko maramdaman 'yung nerbiyos. As a performer, I'm more confident now and my energy can fill the stage. Rico has evolved into a halong comedian na bastusing maginoo. Si Nonoy, maginoong-maginoon. Si Marco, maginoong sexy. Si Hajji, from kilabot ng mga colegiala to a performer na mas loose on stage.

What are your strengths?

Hajji: People will come to the Araneta Coliseum for different reasons—because they're fans of Rico J, they are in love with Rey Valera's songs, they are fans of Marco Sison, they like the songs of Nonoy Zuñiga, or they like my songs. The good thing about music is that it touches lives.

Rico: Kapag nakita ko na, wow, full house, I feel I can do anything. Siguro the difference between me and them is malakas ang loob ko. Bago nila batuhin ang isang bagay, nagtatanong pa sila. May hesitation pa sila to be very natural. 'Yung mga jokes ko, sila ang nagbibibi-

gay sa akin. 'Tapos matutuwa sila kasi kuwela naman pala.

Nonoy: My voice, of course. My rapport with the audience. Before I considered myself as a shy balladeer. I could just sing, say a few lines and then sing again. You cannot be like that if you're performing before a Filipino audience. 'Di ba we're hospitable and warm kaya gusto nila na ganoon din ang performer?

Si Rico, makapal ang mukha niyan! Wala siyang sinasanto. Ever since ganyan na siya. I used to watch him before at Spindle. 'Di pa siya Rico Puno, P40 a night pa lang siya. Kami (Family Birth Control band) ang alternate niya, P20 lang kami. Talagang iba na siya: tumatayo sa mesa habang kumakantaw hawak-hawak niya ang mike papunta sa CR 'tapos maririnig 'yung pag-flush niya. Ang kapali!

Si Hajji, suwabe na balladeer na may dating sa chicks. He's really one of our best singers who is really handsome. Malakas ang boses ni Marco at saka filled with emotions. Si Rey naman, he's one of a very few composers who can sing.

Marco: My voice. I can't say I

look bad or good, but I'm on the OK side.

Rey: I go beyond the audience's expectations. Marunong din akong magpatawa, 'di lang brutal katulad ni Rico.

Did you have any problems with the billing, the order of your appearance on stage or the choice of songs?

Hajji: Wala. Alam mo, 'yung mga taong conscious sa billing, yun ang mga kasabay namin noong araw na wala na ngayon. Hindi kami conscious diyan. Our only concern is to do the best we can.

Rico: I can say that these guys are very professional. It doesn't matter kung saan kami ilagay. About the repertoire, we talk about it with the director.

Nonoy: "Kahit na ilagay kami ahead sa kanila dahil malakas kami sa producer, kami mismo ang 'di papayag. Ang pinag-uusapan na lang naming lima ay 'yung mga jokes namin."

Marco: No, wala akong naramdamang ganun. Meron kaming spot numbers. Sa mga production, numbers, nag-usap-usap kami. Wala kaming problema sa distribution ng mga kanta.

SINGERS/CO



Sci-fi mini-series on the Hallmark channel

HALLMARK, the family movie channel, screens a varied group of entertaining productions this month (all screenings at 9 p.m.):

"Frank Herbert's Children of Dune" leads off with Part 1 on July 13. This sci-fi spectacle follows the trials and triumphs of the "Dune" hero, after his rise to power on an embattled desert planet. Alec Newman, Julie Cox and Susan Sarandon play pivotal roles.

Part 2 will be telecast on July 20, and Part 3 premieres on July 17.

"Rebus: Dead Soul," which will be screened on July 18, shows how Rebus, our crime-solving hero, gets to the bottom of the mysterious death of his colleague, as well as the disappearance of the 19-year-old son of his former love, Janice. As he proceeds with his sleuthing, his passion for Janice is rekindled.

On July 26, another Rebus mystery will be shown. "Rebus: Mortal Causes" involves the master sleuth in the investigation of an underworld vendetta, which could also turn out to be a terrorist attack. His worst fears are confirmed when a bomb is planted in an urban center.

And, on July 27, "ladykiller" stars Mimi Rogers as a forensic expert investigating the suicide of a bachelorette. The investigating is soon drawn into a seductive web of lies and deceit as she gets involved with a married man through the same dating service that the dead woman once joined. Will the tough lady cop also fall prey to the mysterious ladykiller?

Boob-tube boobies

HOST: Now that you've separated from your wife, how are your children taking it?

Guest: Well, it's a big problem.

Host: They're sad to be part of a broken family?

Guest: Yes, but I keep telling them, since my parents also separated when I was small, I'd rather have a broken family than to live in a broken family.

(Ah, please explain the difference?)

Host: Do you think, in the future, you can fall in love again?

Guest: Of course!

Host: How many years from now, you think?

Guest: I don't want to set a deadline. Well, in two more years.

(That sounds like some kind of a deadline to us!)

Host: Is it true that Arnold Schwarzenegger married one of the Kennedys?

Co-host: Yeah, I think I heard that.

Host: What's his wife's name?

Co-host: Maria Shriver. (That's Shriver, dear. You give us the shivers.)

Host: How's your family now that your father is no longer around?

Guest: Well, another ko ang tumatayang parang magulang namin.

(Parang magulang? Magulang mo talaga ang mother mo!)

Host: Why do you think we Filipinos are so disunited? Why can't we get our act together as a people?

Guest: Our being an archipelago is a big factor. The fact that we're made up of so many islands, that's why in our outlook and attitude, we're so regional-ismical!

(Regionalismical? We really have problems!)

Host: We have a full show today.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



What's the feature you're looking forward to the most?

Co-host: I think the one about DJ Moo in the United States.

(Moooo!)

Host: You are accused of entering into an illegal financial transaction. What do you have to say?

Guest: It's not illegal! We followed the due procedures. *Meron akong pinirmahan sa everything na tinaggap kong pera!*

(Kamag-anak ka ba ni Love Añover—and everything?)

Host: How big is the hospital wing you have just put up?

Guest: Quite big. Just one ward can occupy 15 patients.

(Ay, occupy!)

Teacher in TV drama: Class, for your assignment next week, I want you to do a book report on Ernest Hemingway's "Man of the Sea."

(Sir, that's "The Old Man and the Sea" Sir!)

'Bad Boys 2'

IT'S taken eight long years for the sequel to the 1995 hit, "Bad Boys" to be made, but "Bad Boys 2" promises to equal the success of the original film.

Once more, Will Smith and Martin Lawrence play narcotics detectives. This time around, they become part of a high-tech task force assigned to put a stop to the use of the "designer" drug



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Ecstasy in Miami. Their mission becomes even more dangerous than they expected when they uncover a deadly conspiracy involving a ruthless drug lord who has no qualms about killing anybody who stands in the way of his plan to take control of Miami's billion-dollar narcotics trade.

Carol at Hard Rock

TONIGHT, Carol Banawa marks a milestone in her career with her first show at Hard Rock Café. She will be joined by RJ Rosales, Franco Laurel and Jed Mad dela. Backing them up is the Big Band.

Like Sharon Cuneta and Regine Velasquez, Carol is shaping up as a multimedia artist who sings, acts and hosts shows. And she does them one better by also being a theater artist, with performances in "Little Mermaid," "Alik-

abok" and the Singapore musical "Judah Ben-Hur."

In her Hard Rock Café show, Carol will sing pop, ballads, OPM hits and R&B songs. The performance is for the benefit of the Bigay Pagmamahal Foundations. Call 893-4661 to 63.

'Variations'

"MUSIC on the Walls" returns to Intramuros with "variations," a concert featuring The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, with John Welsh, guest conductor, at the Manila Cathedral (Basilica of the Immaculate Conception), at 8 p.m. on July 18.

"Music on the Walls" is a monthly concert series presented by San Miguel Corp., the Department of Tourism and The San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

Vote for your favorites in 2003 MTV Pilipinas awards

FOR the third consecutive year, MTV Philippines honors the best in Pinoy music video-making with "2003 MTV Pilipinas," the biggest night in Philippine music video-making.

To be held at the NBC Tent at the Fort Bonifacio Global City on Aug. 6, 2003, the event has 22 nominees, 7 categories, a pair of wacky hosts, and celebrity presenters and performers.

Sexy comedienne Ruffa Mae Quinto and funnyman-singer-composer Ogie Alcasid host the star-studded music video awards show.

"We asked Ruffa Mae to host 2003 MTV Pilipinas after she brought the house to tears in last year's MTV Pilipinas," said Rod Nepomuceno, MTV Philippines marketing and communications director. "Ogie was a natural choice as her male partner since his comedic talent and wisecracks are known throughout his long career as a singer and host."

Musical lovers may vote for the categories for Favorite New Artist, Favorite Group, Favorite Male, Favorite Female and Favorite Song, while a jury of members of the media, recording, fashion, print and music industries will vote for the Best Director and Best Video categories.

The nominees for 2003 MTV Pilipinas are: Favorite New Artist: Ayeen Laurel, for "Bawat Gabi;" Imago, for "Idlip;" Kamikazee, "Lucky;" Nina, "Jealous;" Sugarfree, "Mariposa."

Favorite Group: Barbie's Cradle, "All I Need;" Imago, "Idlip;" Rivermaya, "Wag Na Init Ulo Baby;" Slapshock, for "Numb;" True Faith, "Deadma."

Favorite Male: Dingdong Avanzado, "Here To Stay;" Gary Valenciano, "Warrior Is A Child;" Martin Nievera, "Never Say Goodbye;" Ogie Alcasid, "Sana."

Favorite Female: Carol Banawa, "Stay;" Nina, "Jealous;" Pops Fernandez, "Kaya Pala;" Regine Velasquez, "Sa Aking Pag-iisa;" Sharon Cuneta, "In Your Eyes."

Favorite Song: "All I Need," Barbie's Cradle; "Idlip," Imago; "Jealous," Nina; "Sa Aking Pag-iisa;" "Wag Na Init Ulo, Baby," Rivermaya.

Best Director: Avid Liongoren, for Kamikazee's "Lucky;" Jun Reyes, Ayeen Laurel's "Bawat Gabi;" Lyle Sacris, Rivermaya's "Wag Na Init Ulo Baby;" Robert Quebral, Ogie Alcasid's "Sana;" Team Manila, Slapshock's "Numb."

Best Video: Ayeen Laurel's "Bawat Gabi," directed by Jun Reyes; Imago's "Idlip," Margaret Guzman; Kamikazee's "Lucky," Avid Liongoren; Ogie Alcasid's "Sana," by Robert Quebral; Slapshock's "Numb," by Team Manila.

Voters may cast their vote by logging on to www.mtv.com, by e-mailing their votes

SHOW TIME

Votes may be cast by logging on to MTV Asia site, by e-mail, fax, text or snail mail

with their name, age, address and telephone number to mtvpilipinas@mtv-asia.com; by faxing their votes with their name, age, address and telephone number to (632) 848-1319; or by texting on their Smart cell phones MTVPILREG and sending it to 688 to register and vote.

Votes may also be sent through snail mail to MTV Pilipinas 2002, PO Box 1696, Makati Central Post Office, 1256 Makati City, Philippines.

The closing date for all votes is Aug. 1. Only one vote is allowed per person. For text votes, only the latest vote will be counted.

MTV is also inviting all fanatics to audition and be a part of their head-banging, body-shaking mosh pit. All daredevils are invited to audition by purchasing one drink of any San Miguel Pale Pilsen variants, and bringing their proof of purchase to any of the following venues: July 18 at Pier 1 on Tomas Morato; July 25 at Bistrot 110 on C. Palanca Street in Makati; or Aug. 1 at Gilligan's Bar and Grill at Festival Supermall in Alabang from 8 p.m. till midnight.

2003 MTV Pilipinas is presented by Jag, Smart Communications, SMB Play in cooperation with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Manila Bulletin. For more information, call the MTV hotline at 882-1MTV, or log on to www.mtv.com.

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EVEN the weirdest among us are capable of loving and being loved, according to the movie.

'PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE'

Valentine to the sad and wounded

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

I HAD second thoughts about writing about "Punch-Drunk Love," particularly because I saw it on its last screening day and so whatever I say about it probably won't matter much. But I can't seem to forget about the film so I figured I might as well write about it.

In a new and screwy kind of way, the film is that memorable. As I left the theater, I remembered trying to come to terms with what I had just seen. "What's the film really about?" I thought.

REVIEW

Now, days later, I realize that perhaps the film is memorable because I'm still trying to answer the question. Maybe the film doesn't really lend itself to explanation, but I'll try anyway.

For me, "Punch-Drunk Love" could easily be a loving valentine to the wounded and the sad.

Weird, lonely

The lead character, Barry Egan (Adam Sandler), is a guy who seems destined never to find lasting happiness. Given to sudden violent expressions of anger as well as to frequent crying bouts, the man is obviously wrestling with serious emotional issues, although what these are he can't really explain.

Seeking professional psychiatric help from a dentist (his brother-in-law), he confides: "I don't know if there's anything wrong because I don't know how other people are. Sometimes I cry a lot for no reason."

Barry is diffident, weird and



TABLE FOR TWO has Adam Sandler and Emily Watson in a very unlikely pairing.

lonely. He also seems to live in a perpetual state of instability. An emotional meltdown lurks in every corner of his existence.

In the opening scene, we find him talking on the phone in his office one early morning, pestering a customer service representative about a certain marketing promotion. We find out later that this has something to do with trying to accumulate more than a million frequent flier miles by buying loads of pudding, an obsession of Barry's even if he doesn't really eat the pudding, nor does he plan on going anywhere.

Constant teasing

Every day's a struggle for Barry and every act an energy-draining

exercise. Whether he's just browsing in a supermarket or entertaining customers at his store (he sells bathroom novelties), he's literally painful to watch. A plodding and babbling mess, it's no wonder he prefers to keep people at a distance.

When he calls a phone sex service, it isn't so much that he's looking for instant sexual gratification but some personal connection with another human being, without the risk of being found out what kind of guy he truly is. Although he has seven sisters, he doesn't seem to relate well to any of them, and the film gives us more than a hint that his sisters' constant teasing since they were kids may be the cause of his personality disorders.

It may be hard to know what's eating Barry but it is clear where he's headed. Guys like him don't usually have happy endings, in movies as well as in real life.

That is, not until they fall in love. And that's precisely what happens to Barry when he meets Englishwoman Emily Watson's Lena Leonard.

Someone for everyone

To say that "Punch-Drunk Love" is the typical "love conquers all" kind of film would be to unfairly pigeonhole it and disregard the rich, underlying irony of Barry's bitter life. The film is one of the more interesting character-based comedies I've seen in a long while, and a big part of its appeal is that Barry's so-called

transformation never gets sappy.

What Lena sees in Barry is anybody's guess. But those of us who believe that there really is someone out there for each of us would find it easy to develop an emotional investment in Barry and Lena's future.

In Lena, Barry has found someone who helps makes sense of who he is, no matter how nutty he could be. We all wish to be so lucky, perhaps because most of us, whether we care to admit it or not, are just as nutty as Barry, only in our own kind of way.

Barry isn't actually dragged kicking and screaming into the kind of relationship he thought he didn't need. Indeed, there's not one scene in the film that shows he's not attracted to Lena. But throughout "Punch-Drunk Love" we bear the burden of his worries in risking a relationship with someone, especially since he's grown accustomed to the comforts and safety of his unattached state.

Off-beat romance

Until the end, he doesn't really evolve into someone else. He still walks on a tightrope. Only, Lena's unconditional love makes him braver and stronger in doing so.

Although labeled a romantic comedy, "Punch-Drunk Love" doesn't quite fit the conventional formula of the genre. The romance is decidedly offbeat and the laughs come few and far between. In fact, scenes that are supposedly comical also generate some compelling drama. At times, you even feel guilty laughing at Barry, but you laugh nonetheless, perhaps recognizing your own idiosyncrasies in his.

The engine behind "Punch-

Drunk Love" is Paul Thomas Anderson, who previously directed "Boogie Nights" and "Magnolia." If you can accept his priorities as a filmmaker, then you're likely to enjoy this film. Anderson is enamored of the messy, contradictory and neurotic aspects of human relationships and it shows in his work. He's confident enough not to make perfect sense. If you've seen "Magnolia" (and its bit about a hailstorm of frogs), you know what I mean.

Absolute faith

Anderson tells the story of "Punch-Drunk Love" almost in the same way. Not linear and structurally ungainly, it has a rambling quality that favors character exploration over tight storytelling.

The film has plenty of elements for which you might need to ask the director himself what he meant to do. I myself could not figure out what the harmonium (it's like the poor cousin of a piano and an organ) and the car crash in the opening sequence have to do with the rest of the film.

Despite it all, Anderson's hand is sure and his faith in his characters and cast absolute. His collaboration with Sandler, for one, allows the latter to come up with a thoroughly engaging, breakthrough performance that could well guarantee him a future in more serious films.

I know it's not showing anymore, but I'd still want to tell people to watch this film. Somewhere inside its mess is a message worth taking to heart: We should never write anyone off. Because even the weirdest among us are capable of loving and being loved.

As corny as it sounds, that makes all the difference.

Ayen wins 3 MTV nominations

AYEN Munji-Laurel has been nominated as Favorite New Artist in the MTV Pilipinas 2003 awards (See related story, Page C3).

Her music video, "Bawat Gabi," is also nominated for Best Video, and its director, Jun Reyes, for Best Director.

"I am really flattered about the nominations," Ayen says. "Now I can say that all the hard work and the efforts that we put into the making of the music video have paid off. *Talagang nakakataba ng puso.*"

Ayen is also included in the lineup of performers in the Cultural Center

of the Philippines' spectacular musical extravaganza "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin," a repeat of last year's successful "Lagi Kitang Naalala,"

with some changes. It will be held on July 11 and 12 at the CCP Main Theater. The

SHOW TIME

production aims to promote among today's youth the body of work of our National Artists and to raise funds for the National Artists Gallery.

Ayen's self-titled debut album is still in the market. Her fourth single, "One Last Goodbye," was released early this year.



MUNJI-LAUREL flattered, honored

Auditions for 'Urinetown'

THEATER'S enfant terrible Bobby Garcia announces July 19 auditions for his latest project, "Urinetown."

Garcia, who heads Atlantis Productions, is bringing the Broadway musical to Manila later this year. "Urinetown" was the winner of three Tony Awards last year, including Best Book and Best Music, and has been hailed by critics as one of the most clever and amusing musicals to have hit the Great White way for quite some time. It continues to be one of Broadway's hottest selling shows.

Praised by critics for reinvigorating the Broadway musical, "Urinetown" is also said to be one of the most distinctive, intelligent and jubilant theatrical experiences to hit

New York City in recent memory.

"Urinetown" will be directed by Garcia, with choreography by Andy Alviz, musical direction by ManMan Angsico and lighting design by Gerry Fernandez.

Auditions for the first international production of "Urinetown" will be on Saturday, July 19, at the ground floor of the Oppen Bldg. at 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sign-up begins at 10:30 a.m.

Please prepare one musical theater song and bring the piano sheet or minus one. Also, bring a recent photograph.

For more information, contact Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

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Singers and gentlemen + Rico J

From page C2

Rey: Walang problema. Dumating na kami sa point where we're secure with ourselves. We don't have to prove anything anymore.

Which of your hit songs best describes you?

Hajji: "Tag-araw, Tag-ulan" because that's very close to my heart. That's my very first gold single. Wala pang platinum noong araw. The flipside was "Panakip-butas," so I had back-to-back hits in my very first recording. Then there are "Nakapagtataka," "May Minamahal" and "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika" that choirs and glee clubs always sing.

Kay Pareng Rico, "Kapalaran" and "The Way We Were" kasi diyan siya nag-umpisa talaga. Ang gusto ko kay Nonoy, "Doon Lan—Willy Cruz compositions that are really beautiful. Gustong-gusto ko naman ang

"Kung Kailangan Mo Ako" ni Rey Valera. "Make Believe" naman kay Marco.

Rico: "Kapalaran" I think is the best because that's the very first original Filipino song that the public accepted. Noong panahon ko kasi, kapag pinatugtog ang plaka ko na Tagalog, bakya ang dating.

Kay Hajji, "Tag-araw," "Panakip-butas," Kay Rey, "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko," "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako." Kay Nonoy, "Never Ever Say Goodbye." Kay Marco, "Make Believe."

Nonoy: "Never Ever Say Goodbye." It's a very romantic song. Bagay na bagay naman kay Rico 'yung "Macho Guwapito," siyang-siya 'yan. Si Hajji, "Tag-ulan, Tag-araw" and "May Minamahal." Si Rey, "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako." I love that song at saka bagay na bagay sa kanya 'yan. Si Marco, "Make Believe."

Marco: My first hit, "Make Believe," changed my life as a singer. But I have this other song, "My Love Will See You Through," which has always been number one in karaoke bars. 'Yung "Si Aida, si Lorna o si Fe," iba naman ang naging role sa akin, parang masyado naman akong playboy.

I remember Rico for "Macho Guwapito," pa-macho na pag-uwapo na may comedy. Siya 'yun mismo. Si Hajji, "Tag-araw" and "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika" because of Metropop. Nonoy is identified with "Never Ever Say Goodbye." I see Rey as a good composer who can actually sing, katulad ng paborito ko sa kanya, "Kung Magkakalayo." Emotion 'yan ng lalaking insecure. I can relate to that as a man.

Rey: "Malayo Pa ang Umaga"—para sa mga kababayan ko 'yan. Rico, "Macho Guwapito." Hajji, "Nakapagtataka." Marco, "Si Aida, si Lorna o si Fe." Nonoy, "Never Ever Say Goodbye."

Which of the others' hits did you wish you had recorded before, or would like to do a version now?

Hajji: "May Bukas Pa" (Rico), "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako" (Rey), "Doon Lang" (Nonoy) and "Make Believe" (Marco).

Rico: "Nakapagtataka" ni Hajji. 'Yung "Never Ever Say Goodbye," paborito ko talaga kaya sana ini-record ko. Kay Rey, 'Ako Si Superman.' Sa akin in-offer 'yan kaya lang tinanggihan ko kasi ang feeling ko noon parang magiging sobrang yabang ako. E, humble pa ako noon. (Laughs) Pero maganda naman ang nangyari kasi it paved the way for him to become a singer.

Nonoy: Kay Rico, "My Love." I love that song. OK lang kung sa akin ibinigay 'yan.

Kay Hajji, "Tag-araw." In fact, ini-record ko na 'yan. Gustong-gusto ko na-

man 'yung "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako" ni Rey. Kay Marco, "Make Believe."

Marco: "Never Ever Say Goodbye," "Kapalaran" (Rico). "Nakapagtataka" (Hajji). Wala na kay Rey kasi na-revive na ng mga babaeng singers, especially Sharon Cuneta.

Rey: Kay Nonoy, "Never Ever Say Goodbye." Kay Rico, wala. Pero gusto ko ang image niya na sumikat kahit hindi guwapo.

Binigyan niya ng hope ang mga may mukhang common na puwede rin pala. Kay Hajji and Marco, wala rin.

What do you think of our new crop of singers?

Hajji: We have many good ones now, although I feel we had more good materials then. There's no shortage of good singers today, but there's a

shortage of good songs. There were many productive composers during our time whose works have become classics.

Rico: They're all good. My only hope is that they'll be able to sustain that (level of excellence). Those who love the business very much and won't treat it as just a source of income, they will last.

Nonoy: Magagaling sila sa style na usongayon—R&B, rap, rock. 'Yung pop, 'di masyado, si Ogie (Alcasid) lang.

Marco: They're OK. The more, the merrier. Nauso ang mga bands pero Side A and Freestyle became big because of one hit ballad. I'm talking ballad kasi 'yung talaga ang sentiment ng Pilipino, mapabata o mapamatanda. Pero nakakalimutan ngayon 'yan kasi nagpa-R&B sila. Hanggang saan 'yan?

Rey: Meron ba? Si Aiza (Seguerra) lang ang masasabi ko na simple. Ibinalik niya 'yung essence na dapat 'yung kanta muna bago 'yung style.

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Sex siren and "Masayang Tang-hali Bayan" co-host Aubrey Miles was shopping, apparently alone, at the Power Plant Mall of Rockwell in Makati City last Monday night. One of the clothes shops she checked out was Tyler.

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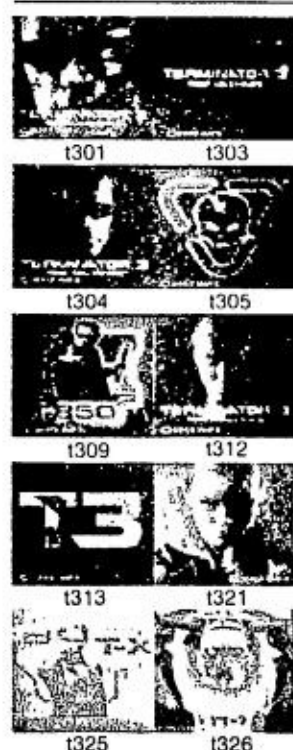


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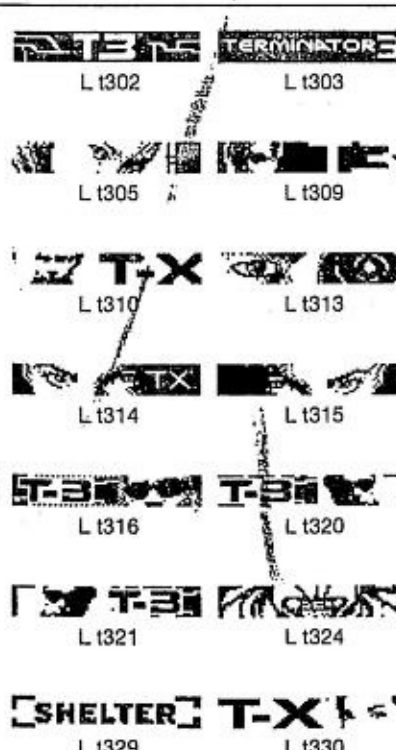
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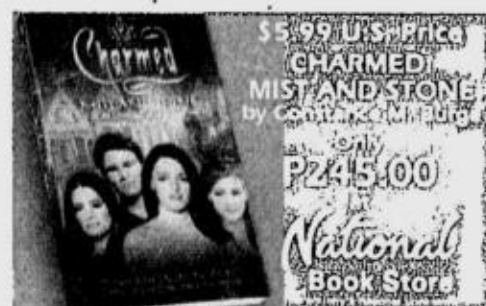
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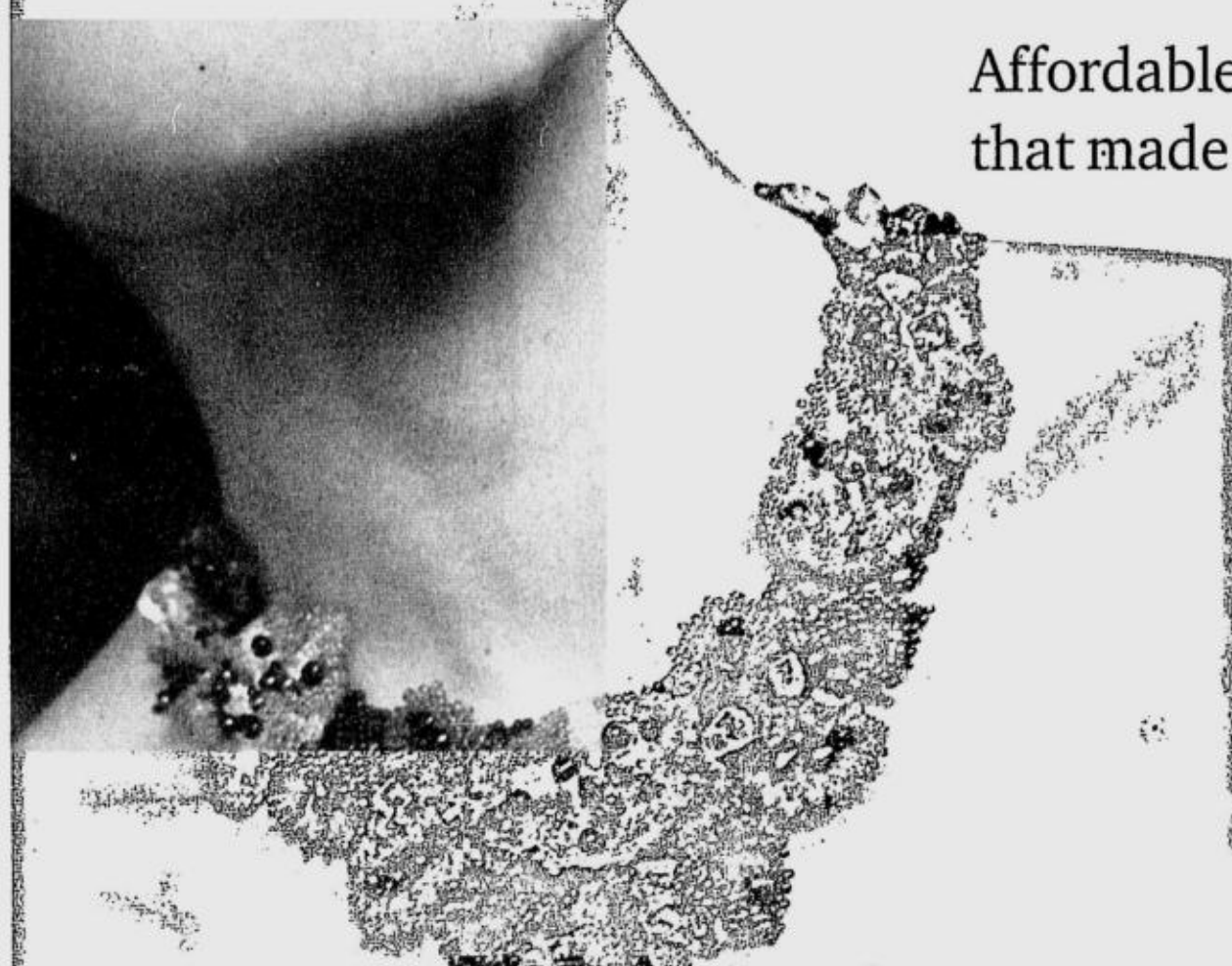
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LIFE STYLE

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Affordable baubles from the land that made Fabergé eggs world-famous



From Russia
with *love* and
sparklers

Text by Leica R. Carpo
Photos by Romy Homillada

RUSSIA, famous for ballet, caviar and vodka, has another export just as popular, at least in certain circles: fabulous jewelry. From Catherine the Great's 189-karat Orloff diamond given by spurned lover Count Grigori Orloff to the Russian royal gift of choice—jewel-encrusted Fabergé eggs—the history of Russian jewelry has never been wanting in romance or intrigue.

But if you're no history buff and all you care about is how the rock fits, you will be pleased to know that craftsmanship is important to Russian jewelers. Using colorful one-of-a-kind gemstones, the pieces are often intricately woven together in fine lace-like patterns.

Small wonder, then, that Chari Villanueva Cabral, a full-time sugar farmer and mother with a serious passion for jewelry, could not resist bringing a few pieces home. For Chari and her cousin Sandra Recto-Jalbuena, a partner in this particular Russian collection, the jewelry's appeal is in the unique and eye-catching style called Biseroepletenie.

"I was really impressed with the clean yet intricate workmanship," says Chari.

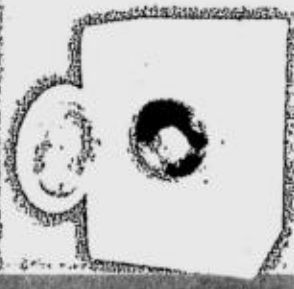
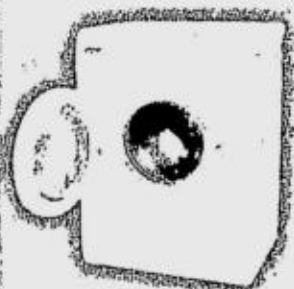
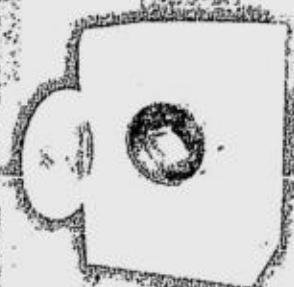
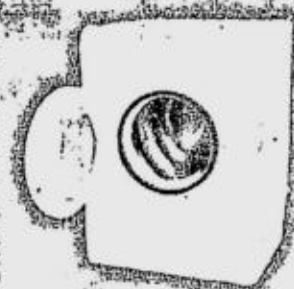
It was Chari's mother, an avid jewelry collector, who cultivated in her an appreciation

FROM RUSSIA/ D2



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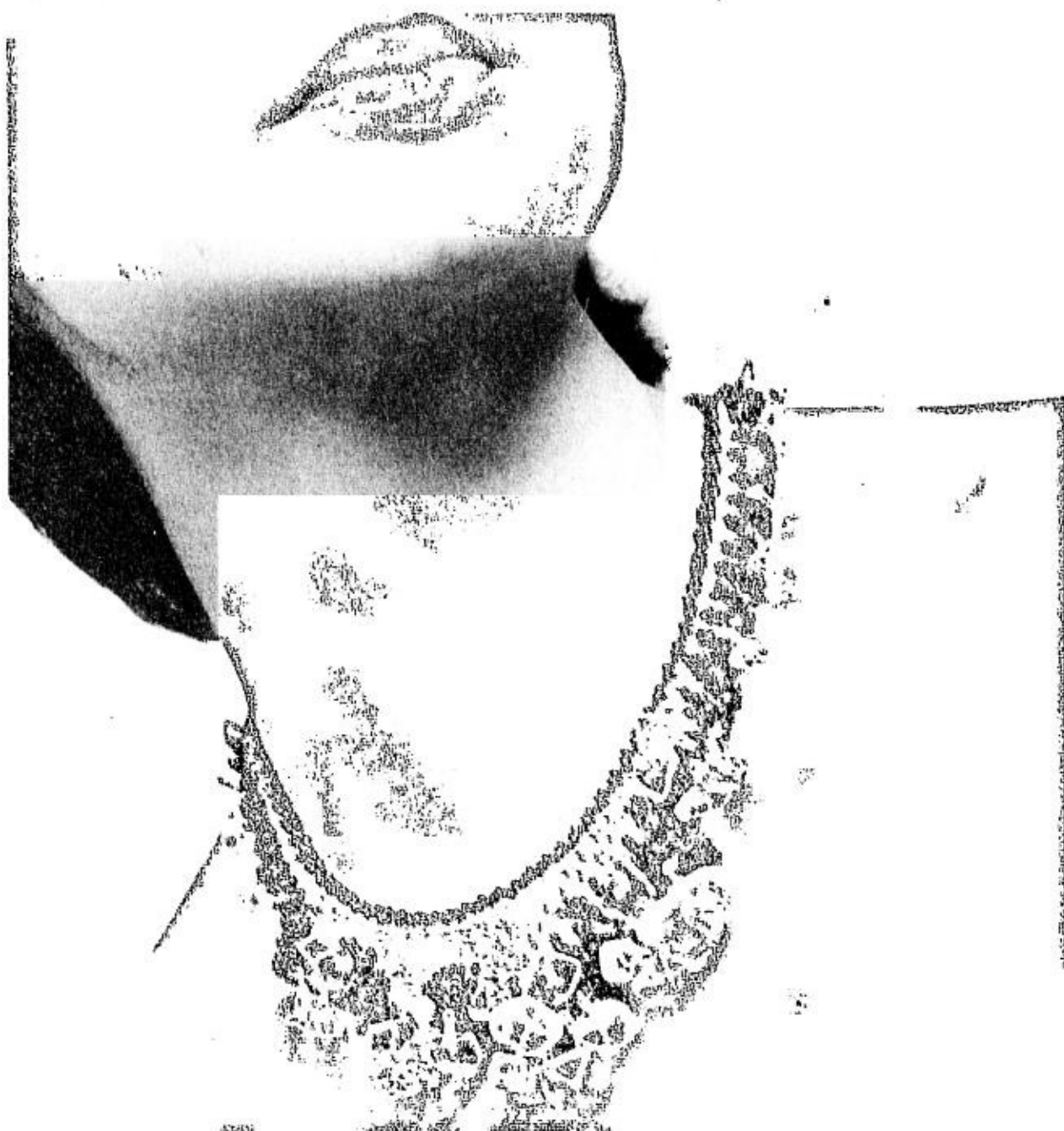
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MARIE. Briolette Russian necklace



ANASTASIA. Briolette Russian bracelet



CHARI Villanueva-Cabral

From Russia with *love* and sparklers

From page D1

for fine gemstones. Chari took her fascination of the subject a step farther by arming herself with a degree in gemology from the Gemological Institute of America in Sta. Monica, California, and an apprenticeship with the renowned jeweler H. Stern. She then started her own jewelry line called Briolette.

Inspiration

Chari started her fledgling business in 2002 at the insistence of friends who had liked the pieces she made for herself. Her inspiration, she says, comes from things that catch her eye, such as a painting, an unusual dress color, and her own jewelry collection. She chose Briolette because the unusual cut was her favorite when she was at school.

Apart from Russian jewelry, which she is selling from her home, Chari also designs and



BRIOLETTE Russian bracelets (from left) Natalia, Tanya, Karenina and Olga



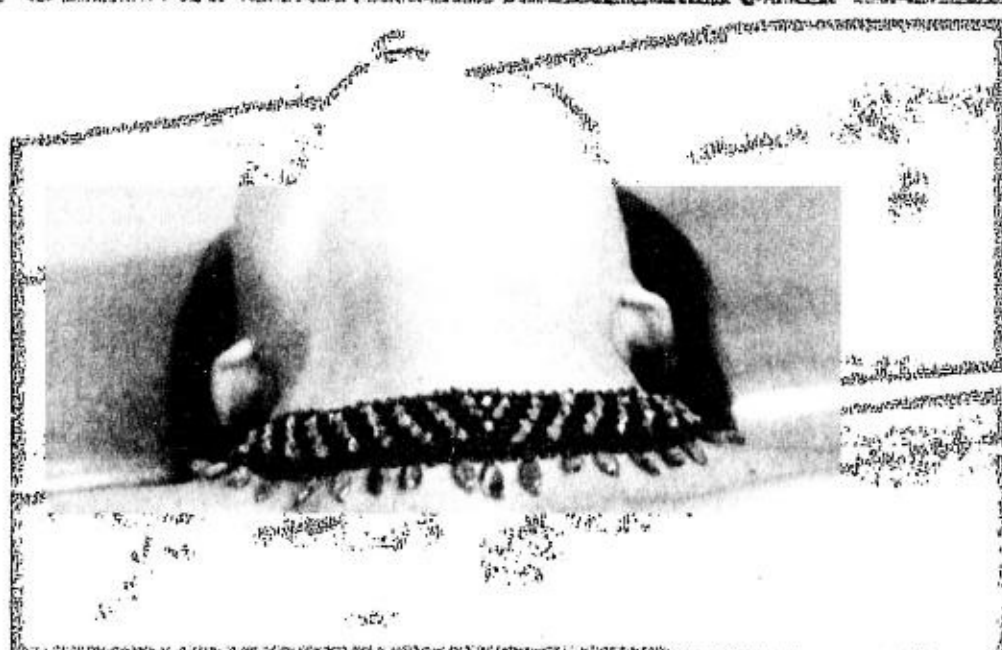
KARENINA. Briolette Russian choker

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BRIOLETTE Russian
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creates a new collection twice a year.

These limited-edition pieces are sold exclusively at the Firma boutique in Greenbelt 3. The latest 2003 collection is called Shantung, a pretty 20-piece cuff collection that incorporates Shantung silk, brocade, silver and semi-precious stones.

Like the Russian collection, no two pieces are alike. The collection combines her favorite colors such as light amethyst (lilac), peridots (light green) and blue topaz. Expect to see pearls combined with the rich hues of emeralds, tanzanite (dark blue/purple), rubies and sapphires.

Lest you think owning Russian artistry will cost a Czar's fortune, prices for the Russian jewelry start at P3,300, not too steep for people who care for artistic quality.

The beauty of collecting jewelry is wearing the pieces. When asked why women should collect jewelry, Chari responds, like any true modern woman, that "aside from making a woman attractive, jewelry also gives a woman a sense of empowerment!" A resounding "nastaroye" (cheers) to that!

Preparing for marriage

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My girlfriend and I were planning to get married last year, but we were told to postpone our plans because her older brother got married in December. Their family has this belief that only one member can tie the knot in one year.

The postponement did not really bother us much, because we both have [jobs that] keep us busy, and it gave us the chance to save more for our future. In fact, we planned to get married in February this year, but because of the untimely demise of my grandmother, we had to postpone again.

We planned again for an October wedding this year, but my aunt and cousins who now work in the United States and who knew of the two postponements suggested we get married this December because they would be here then for two weeks. My aunt even said that the contents of one *balikbayan* box would be our wedding gifts.

My girlfriend, on being informed of this, took a deep breath and said, "Okay, but if you really want to marry me, let's get married before Christmas," and I swore to her that we would be Mr. and Mrs. by Dec. 16.

Do you believe in the superstition that only one family member should get married in one year? Do you have any comments on what has been happening, and can you give us advice on how to prepare for our wedding?

BERT

Decades ago, when I was still a teenager, I heard about the belief that no sibling should get married the same year another one marched down the aisle.

I have no comment. Just respect what your elders say about it. However, I am convinced that very often (not always) things happen in threes. Your wedding date has been postponed three times, but I'm sure you will have a merry Marry Christmas.

My advice is for the two of you to attend a Catholic Engaged Encounter Seminar (CEE). This was brought to the Philippines by Fr. Dave Clay, M.S.S.C., and a core group of six couples. The first weekend was held Sept. 12-

**LIVE AND
LET LIVE**



Tita Dulce

14, 1997 and, since then, 47 weekends had been conducted here.

You will be interested to know that CEE weekends are conducted in the United States, Canada, Korea, Australia, Spain and Mexico. CEE Philippines belongs to the Oceanic Region composed of Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Singapore, Korea and Malaysia.

The CEE program is open to all couples considering marriage, and people from all religions are welcome.

During the weekend, engaged couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together through communication, and to share their feelings, hopes and disappointments, joys and frustrations openly and honestly, face-to-face and heart-to-heart. These exercises are designed to deepen and enrich their relationships with each other, and with God.

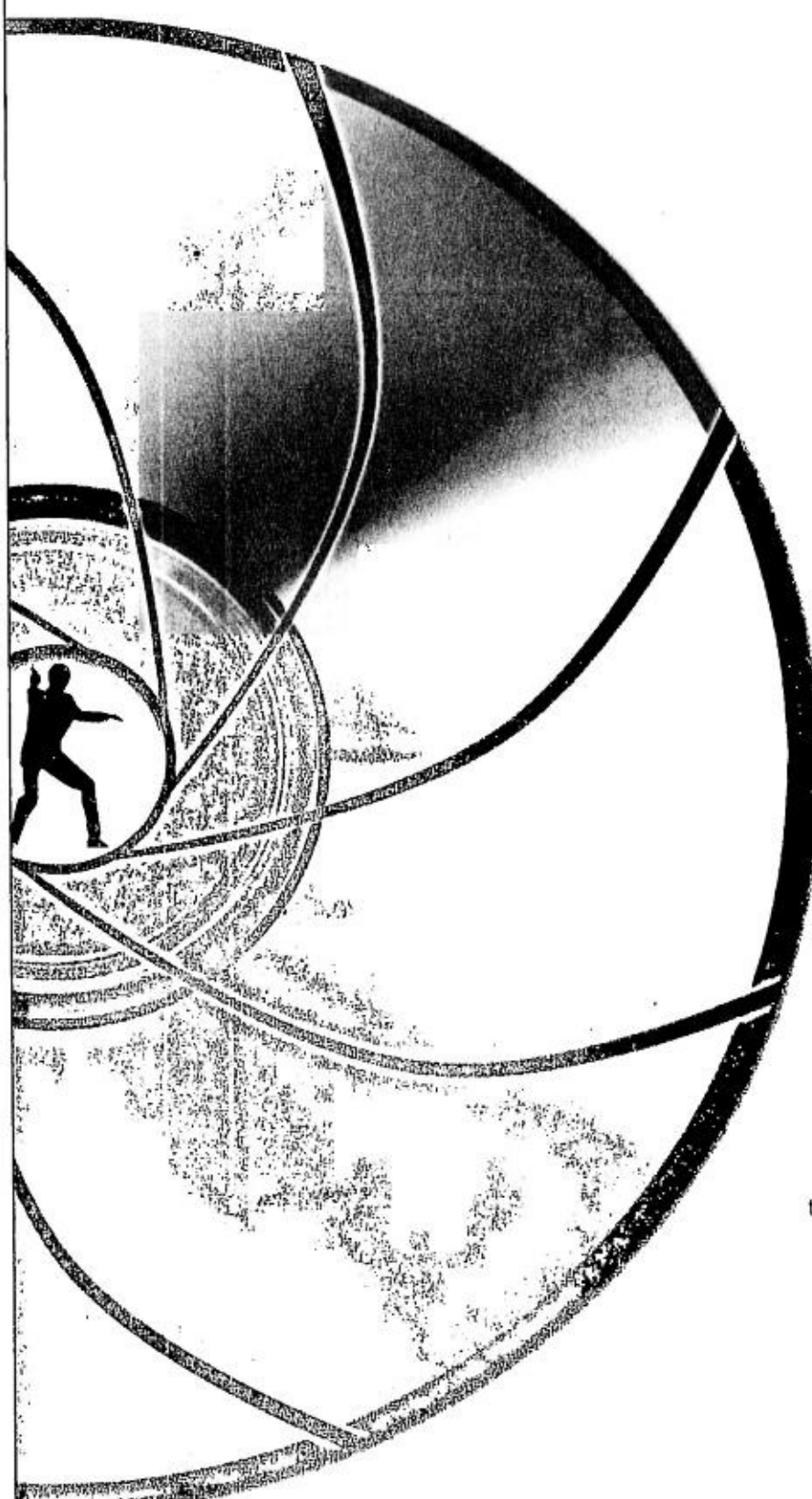
The weekend fee is P3,500 per couple (depending on the retreat house), which covers accommodation, meals, supplies, etc. It starts at 5 p.m. on Fridays and ends at 3 p.m. on Sundays.

The schedule this year: July 25-27 at Oblate Missionary Center, Manga St., Mapayapa Village, QC.; Aug. 22-24, Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 24-26 at Cenacle Home, 59 Nicanor Reyes St., Loyola Heights, Q.C.; and Nov. 28-30, at the Oblate Missionary Center again.

Call any of the following: Fr. Dave Clay, CEE spiritual director, 523-3361; Robbie and Bernadette Fabian, 829-6182; Dado and Cory Hipolito, 810-0222; Earl and Cel Bulan, 650-8003; Chim and Lorna Fernandez, 744-5581; Vinchy and Elisha Lirios, 721-4153, or Ike and Anna Madamba, 726-6568 or 0917-8926400. Good luck.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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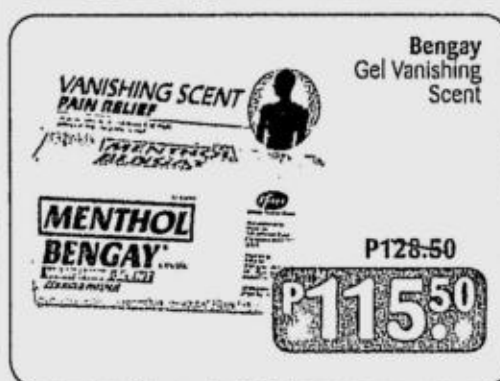
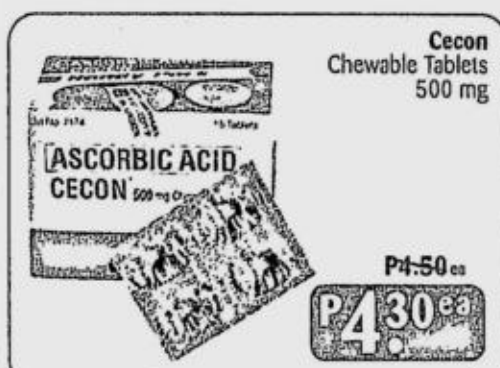
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Page 10 (Refer)

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FRIDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LED

LIFESTYLE

The wallpaper is no longer a wallflower

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

AFTER taking a back seat to paint, particularly faux finishes, wallpaper is making a comeback. No longer a wallflower, it's now avidly wooed by designers and savvy homeowners because of its warmth and personality.

"Most of our clients don't want to furnish, they want to decorate; they want a look," says interior designer Rhea Chua of Wall Crown Design Center. "They consider wallpaper a decorator touch that ties it all together." Wallpaper, she adds, is instant rejuvenation.

Florals, stripes and country toiles have been updated in fresh, clean but rich colors such as brick red, olive green and soft neutrals. But along with the classics, there are subtle patterns to add depth and dimension to rooms.

According to Chua, today's look is natural and textured, with delicate Asian influences, muted colors and leafy patterns.

Designers like Chua appreciate the new papers, often described as "architectural" because they enhance traditional decor in a house. She also defines them as "transitional" because they blend well with old and new decorating schemes.

Most of the new designs are inspired by nature. Some resemble granite and other minerals, with a look so real that you have to touch the wall to determine what it really is. Other papers appear like wood grain or real wood veneer.

These papers may be expensive, but they result in a beautifully customized wall that's comparable in price to a professional faux-finishing job. "People are buying them for the warmth they lend to a place," Chua said.

Alternative to minimalism

The resurgence of wallpaper as an alternative to the minimalism of paint allows for a wealth of decorating options. In addition to warmth, wallpaper adds dimension, color and texture to a room.

Interesting paper eliminates the need for fussy furnishings and diminishes boxy wall angles while adding character, individuality and life to a room.

Indulge your passion for color, pattern and texture by using Wall Crown's sophisticated and easy-to-install wall coverings, which are designed and manufactured in Italy, France and United Kingdom.

"Patterns can be mixed and matched either by using some of the ranges in the market or combining your own preferences. It's an expression of your personality and lifestyle," Chua said.

With Wall Crown products, you can go Zen by using simple, minimalist wallcovering patterns, which were recently launched under the Prado Wallcovering Collection.

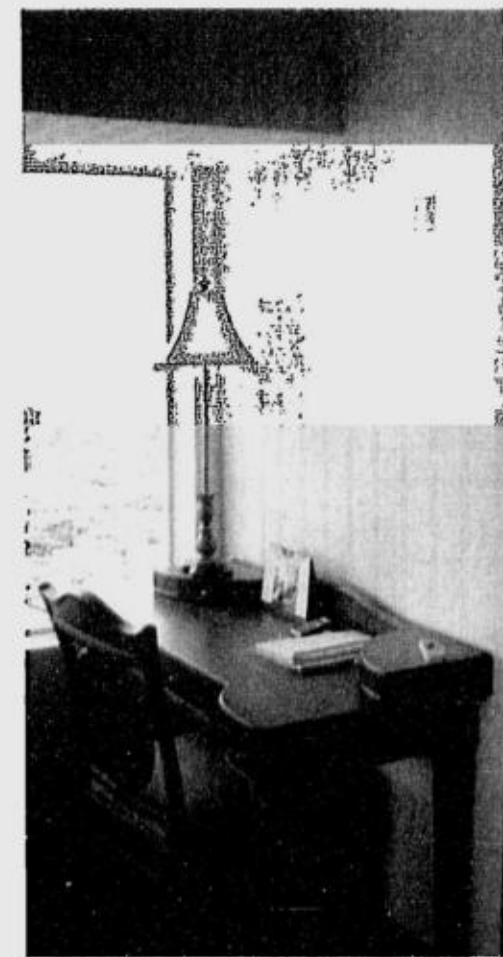
Romantic rooms can be achieved by using floral and lace designs found in the New Romantic Wallcovering Collection.

Privilege Wallcovering Collection offers classic designs with Victorian-inspired patterns.

New colors and textures

New wall covering designs offer rich colors and textures not often found in a paint palette.

THE WALLPAPER/ E3



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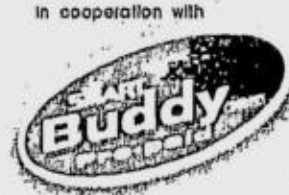
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July 18	SM City Bicutan
July 26	SM Megamall

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SUPERMALLS

Why not make Katipunan a university town?

THESE past weeks we've received position papers, suggestions and other related correspondence on the Katipunan-MMDA controversy. Most of them detail ways to work out practical solutions to the multifaceted problem posed by the need for traffic decongestion in the area.

SEEING GREEN



Doris Gaskell
Nuyda

Katipunan Avenue is dominated by academic institutions, most of them pioneers in that stretch of road (the ones that have made it the bustling avenue that it is today), like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College and St. Bridget's College.

There are 12 other smaller institutions, many of them preschools that now dot the area. Together with new business establishments, high-rise buildings, and an influx of vehicles, congestion may be expected. And with it, chaos.

The Metro Manila Development Authority seems to have only one main solution to all the vehicular movement: Remove some trees and islands to widen the street and allow more cars to pass.

The institutions and residential villages along Katipunan have raised their voices in protest. Why blame the trees? They ask. Why make them the victims?

This way, residents of the area will have to share control over traffic and other local concerns

Students also expressed their stand on the issue when Ateneo's Council of Environmental Officers, chaired by Marlon S. Apinada, met to discuss solutions. Their meeting served as a reminder to all, most of all the MMDA, that problems like these should first go through a process of dialogue and consultations so there could be a consensus of opinion, and perhaps, a meeting of ideas.

Earlier, no less than the presidents of the three major universities in the area set down a position paper that, in effect, shot down any traffic easement solution involving the cutting or removal of trees.

Trees aren't the culprit

More recently, residents themselves added their voices to the clamor to save the trees. Those from Xavierville enumerated the different problems causing traffic jams—lack of parking space, for example, and the diversity of vehicles plying the Katipunan route, from tricycles to eight-wheelers, which account for many accidents and deaths in the area.

None of these problems can be traced to the presence of trees, say the residents. On the contrary, trees provide shade and shelter from the heat and provide much-needed oxygen where vehicles emit harmful carbon monoxide.

Studies show, they add, that five full grown trees can counter the harmful pollution of one car.

Moreover, the islands serve as protection for pedestrians against speeding vehicles. The residents ask that these facts be considered with greater objectivity.

The entire Loyola Heights community maintains that more benefits than disadvantages can be derived from trees and islands.

It suggests, therefore, that the entire community be converted into a big university campus where an effective and safe shuttle system can be set in operation.

Following that suggestion a step further, why not convert the entire Katipunan stretch and neighboring villages and streets into a university town like one finds in Europe and the US?

This would mean sharing a measure of governmental control, in full cooperation with the City Mayor's Office, of course.

This way, the people most affected by any changes and rulings in the community can be expected to put in their 20-centavos' worth of ideas.

In fact, considering the quality of Katipunan's main stakeholders, surely their contribution won't be a mere 20 centavos.

This could be a great offshoot—and hopefully, solution—to the tree-and-traffic controversy in Katipunan.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

TLC

Total Lower Cost

	CDO Billo Hotdog 1kg P125.00 Reg. Price 131.00		MAMA SITA'S Oyster Sauce 1kg 57ml P87.50 Reg. Price 94.00		MONTEREY Beef Cakes 1kg P153.00 Reg. Price 165.00
	SWIFT Sweet n' Juicy Hotdog 1kg P98.00 Reg. Price 104.00		GOLDEN HANDS Papaya Vinegar 500ml P21.50 Reg. Price 23.50		MONTEREY Beef Cakes 1kg P128.00 Reg. Price 134.00
	PURE DELIGHT Chicken Hotdog 1kg P95.00 Reg. Price 104.00		LIGO Sardinia 1kg P15.25 Reg. Price 16.00		MONTEREY Beef Cakes 1kg P150.00 Reg. Price 160.00
	PUREFOODS Tender Juicy Hotdog Bites 1kg P141.25 Reg. Price 141.75		555 Mackerel 1kg P19.50 Reg. Price 19.75		MONTEREY Beef Cakes 1kg P130.00 Reg. Price 140.00
	MONTEREY Longanisa 1kg P47.50 Reg. Price 50.00		555 Tuna 1kg P62.75 Reg. Price 65.00		KRAFT Mayo Real Mayonnaise 470ml P85.50 Reg. Price 89.50
	NESTLE La Cremiera Ice Cream 15 Lbs P185.00 Reg. Price 190.00		CENTURY Tuna 1kg P60.75 Reg. Price 62.25		KRAFT Mayo Real Mayonnaise 470ml P85.50 Reg. Price 89.50
	DARI CREME Butter 1kg P18.50 Reg. Price 19.00		PUREFOODS Canned Tuna 1kg P40.50 Reg. Price 42.00		LILY'S Peanut Butter 300g P47.50 Reg. Price 49.50
	KRAFT Cheddar Cheese 1kg P40.00 Reg. Price 42.00		ARGENTINA Corned Beef 1kg P55.50 Reg. Price 58.00		GARDENIA High Fiber Wheat Bread 1kg P45.00 Reg. Price 46.50
	COOK BEST Vegetable Cooking Oil 1kg P78.25 Reg. Price 80.25		JOLLY Chicken Noodle Soup 1kg P30.25 Reg. Price 31.75		EQUAL Natural Sweetener 1kg P119.50 Reg. Price 125.75
	LASAP Singang Tamarind Mix 1kg P9.00 Reg. Price 9.50		MAGGI Miley Noodle Soup 1kg P27.75 Reg. Price 29.00		IDEAL Instant Oats 1kg P34.75 Reg. Price 36.75
	KNORR Pork Bones 1kg P21.50 Reg. Price 22.00		SUPER Q Golden Bilton 1kg P23.50 Reg. Price 25.00		ANCHOR Full Cream Milk Powder 1kg P539.85 Reg. Price 555.00
	SILVER SWAN Soy Sauce 1kg P19.00 Reg. Price 20.00		FLORENCE Nuts de Coco 1kg P21.00 Reg. Price 24.75		PROMIL KID Growing Up Milk Powder 1kg P649.75 Reg. Price 665.00
	GOLDLOCKS Polvoron 1kg P69.50 Reg. Price 74.50				

FRESH PICK IDEA

MONTEREY KOREAN

Ingredients:

- 1 kg. Monterey Beef Cakes cut into 1/2 inch thick
- 3/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsps. butter
- 2 tbsps. oil
- 2 tbsps. minced garlic
- 2 pcs. chopped onions
- 6 cups water
- 2 cups Sakai rice wine
- 5 pcs. dried chinese mushrooms soaked in water
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup honey
- 2 tbsps. sesame seeds, toasted

**OFFER GOOD:
JULY 11 TO 31, 2003**

AYALA CENTER • SM NORTH EDSA • SM CENTERPOINT • SM MEGAMALL • SM SOUTHMALL • SM BAC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ost

Splash of FUN

FRIDAY,
JULY 11, 2003

3



IN BEEF STEW

- pc. finger pepper, sliced
- pc. medium sized carrots, sliced
- pc. egg, scrambled and cut into strips (optional)
- salt and pepper

Procedure:

Sauté garlic and onions in oil and butter. Add beef cubes and cook until brown. Pour in water, wine, soy sauce, honey and chinese mushrooms and simmer until beef is tender. Add carrots, chili and sesame seeds then season with salt and pepper. Continue cooking until half of the liquid has evaporated. Transfer in a serving bowl and top with egg strips.

For additional recipes please log on to www.mygreatfood.com

Orlen White But Local P29.00/kg.	Orlen White But Local P29.00/kg.	Orlen White But Local P29.00/kg.	Orlen White But Local P29.00/kg.	Orlen White But Local P29.00/kg.
Ginger P50.00/kg.	Ginger P50.00/kg.	Ginger P50.00/kg.	Ginger P50.00/kg.	Ginger P50.00/kg.
Carrots P53.00/kg.	Carrots P53.00/kg.	Carrots P53.00/kg.	Carrots P53.00/kg.	Carrots P53.00/kg.
Hamletan P56.00/kg.	Hamletan P56.00/kg.	Hamletan P56.00/kg.	Hamletan P56.00/kg.	Hamletan P56.00/kg.
Larzones P70.00/kg.	Larzones P70.00/kg.	Larzones P70.00/kg.	Larzones P70.00/kg.	Larzones P70.00/kg.
FLAMES Seedless Grapes P140.00/kg.	FLAMES Seedless Grapes P140.00/kg.	FLAMES Seedless Grapes P140.00/kg.	FLAMES Seedless Grapes P140.00/kg.	FLAMES Seedless Grapes P140.00/kg.
Fuji Apples P41.00/pk.	Fuji Apples P41.00/pk.	Fuji Apples P41.00/pk.	Fuji Apples P41.00/pk.	Fuji Apples P41.00/pk.
Kit Kat P130.00/kg.	Kit Kat P130.00/kg.	Kit Kat P130.00/kg.	Kit Kat P130.00/kg.	Kit Kat P130.00/kg.
Garlic Tatoes P29.00/kg.	Garlic Tatoes P29.00/kg.	Garlic Tatoes P29.00/kg.	Garlic Tatoes P29.00/kg.	Garlic Tatoes P29.00/kg.
GOLDLOCKS Fix-A-Pop Popcorn P10.00/kg.	GOLDLOCKS Fix-A-Pop Popcorn P10.00/kg.	GOLDLOCKS Fix-A-Pop Popcorn P10.00/kg.	GOLDLOCKS Fix-A-Pop Popcorn P10.00/kg.	GOLDLOCKS Fix-A-Pop Popcorn P10.00/kg.
KIRBY'S PLUS Disposable Diapers P186.50/pk.	KIRBY'S PLUS Disposable Diapers P186.50/pk.	KIRBY'S PLUS Disposable Diapers P186.50/pk.	KIRBY'S PLUS Disposable Diapers P186.50/pk.	KIRBY'S PLUS Disposable Diapers P186.50/pk.
COLGATE Triple Action Toothpaste P56.00/kg.	COLGATE Triple Action Toothpaste P56.00/kg.	COLGATE Triple Action Toothpaste P56.00/kg.	COLGATE Triple Action Toothpaste P56.00/kg.	COLGATE Triple Action Toothpaste P56.00/kg.
SOFTREE Sanitary Napkins P26.75/pk.	SOFTREE Sanitary Napkins P26.75/pk.	SOFTREE Sanitary Napkins P26.75/pk.	SOFTREE Sanitary Napkins P26.75/pk.	SOFTREE Sanitary Napkins P26.75/pk.
ASTRING-O-SOL Mouthwash P102.75/kg.	ASTRING-O-SOL Mouthwash P102.75/kg.	ASTRING-O-SOL Mouthwash P102.75/kg.	ASTRING-O-SOL Mouthwash P102.75/kg.	ASTRING-O-SOL Mouthwash P102.75/kg.
SOFTREE Bathing Tissue P89.75/pk.	SOFTREE Bathing Tissue P89.75/pk.	SOFTREE Bathing Tissue P89.75/pk.	SOFTREE Bathing Tissue P89.75/pk.	SOFTREE Bathing Tissue P89.75/pk.
OREO Choco Cream P59.50/pk.	OREO Choco Cream P59.50/pk.	OREO Choco Cream P59.50/pk.	OREO Choco Cream P59.50/pk.	OREO Choco Cream P59.50/pk.
FUN FUN Gummy Candies P18.50/pk.	FUN FUN Gummy Candies P18.50/pk.	FUN FUN Gummy Candies P18.50/pk.	FUN FUN Gummy Candies P18.50/pk.	FUN FUN Gummy Candies P18.50/pk.
NIZORAL Anti-Dandruff Shampoo P127.75/kg.	NIZORAL Anti-Dandruff Shampoo P127.75/kg.	NIZORAL Anti-Dandruff Shampoo P127.75/kg.	NIZORAL Anti-Dandruff Shampoo P127.75/kg.	NIZORAL Anti-Dandruff Shampoo P127.75/kg.
TENDERLY Fabric Enhancer P14.75/pk.	TENDERLY Fabric Enhancer P14.75/pk.	TENDERLY Fabric Enhancer P14.75/pk.	TENDERLY Fabric Enhancer P14.75/pk.	TENDERLY Fabric Enhancer P14.75/pk.
KIT KAT Water P14.75/kg.	KIT KAT Water P14.75/kg.	KIT KAT Water P14.75/kg.	KIT KAT Water P14.75/kg.	KIT KAT Water P14.75/kg.
EIGHT O'CLOCK Powdered Juice Drink P33.05/pk.	EIGHT O'CLOCK Powdered Juice Drink P33.05/pk.	EIGHT O'CLOCK Powdered Juice Drink P33.05/pk.	EIGHT O'CLOCK Powdered Juice Drink P33.05/pk.	EIGHT O'CLOCK Powdered Juice Drink P33.05/pk.
DEP Styling Gel P179.75/kg.	DEP Styling Gel P179.75/kg.	DEP Styling Gel P179.75/kg.	DEP Styling Gel P179.75/kg.	DEP Styling Gel P179.75/kg.
REYNOLDS WRAP Aluminum Foil P54.75/kg.	REYNOLDS WRAP Aluminum Foil P54.75/kg.	REYNOLDS WRAP Aluminum Foil P54.75/kg.	REYNOLDS WRAP Aluminum Foil P54.75/kg.	REYNOLDS WRAP Aluminum Foil P54.75/kg.
RAM California Raisins P42.25/kg.	RAM California Raisins P42.25/kg.	RAM California Raisins P42.25/kg.	RAM California Raisins P42.25/kg.	RAM California Raisins P42.25/kg.
Calamari P139.50/kg.	Calamari P139.50/kg.	Calamari P139.50/kg.	Calamari P139.50/kg.	Calamari P139.50/kg.
Original Scent Lotion P43.75/kg.	Original Scent Lotion P43.75/kg.	Original Scent Lotion P43.75/kg.	Original Scent Lotion P43.75/kg.	Original Scent Lotion P43.75/kg.
Ultra Healing Lotion P43.75/kg.	Ultra Healing Lotion P43.75/kg.	Ultra Healing Lotion P43.75/kg.	Ultra Healing Lotion P43.75/kg.	Ultra Healing Lotion P43.75/kg.
JERGENS Lotion P43.75/kg.	JERGENS Lotion P43.75/kg.	JERGENS Lotion P43.75/kg.	JERGENS Lotion P43.75/kg.	JERGENS Lotion P43.75/kg.
ZIM Scouring Pad P18.50/kg.	ZIM Scouring Pad P18.50/kg.	ZIM Scouring Pad P18.50/kg.	ZIM Scouring Pad P18.50/kg.	ZIM Scouring Pad P18.50/kg.
KOBE Krunch P18.50/kg.	KOBE Krunch P18.50/kg.	KOBE Krunch P18.50/kg.	KOBE Krunch P18.50/kg.	KOBE Krunch P18.50/kg.
BIG BERTA Krunch P18.50/kg.	BIG BERTA Krunch P18.50/kg.	BIG BERTA Krunch P18.50/kg.	BIG BERTA Krunch P18.50/kg.	BIG BERTA Krunch P18.50/kg.
ZEST-O Juice Drink P46.25/kg.	ZEST-O Juice Drink P46.25/kg.	ZEST-O Juice Drink P46.25/kg.	ZEST-O Juice Drink P46.25/kg.	ZEST-O Juice Drink P46.25/kg.
OFF! Lotion P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion P63.75/kg.
OFF! Lotion For Kids P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion For Kids P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion For Kids P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion For Kids P63.75/kg.	OFF! Lotion For Kids P63.75/kg.
DURA-BRITE Stainless Steel Scouring Sponges P18.50/kg.	DURA-BRITE Stainless Steel Scouring Sponges P18.50/kg.	DURA-BRITE Stainless Steel Scouring Sponges P18.50/kg.	DURA-BRITE Stainless Steel Scouring Sponges P18.50/kg.	DURA-BRITE Stainless Steel Scouring Sponges P18.50/kg.
QISHI Natural Potato Chips P16.50/kg.	QISHI Natural Potato Chips P16.50/kg.	QISHI Natural Potato Chips P16.50/kg.	QISHI Natural Potato Chips P16.50/kg.	QISHI Natural Potato Chips P16.50/kg.
WATMAN MANGO P16.25/kg.	WATMAN MANGO P16.25/kg.	WATMAN MANGO P16.25/kg.	WATMAN MANGO P16.25/kg.	WATMAN MANGO P16.25/kg.
DEL MONTE 202 Juice Drink P16.25/kg.	DEL MONTE 202 Juice Drink P16.25/kg.	DEL MONTE 202 Juice Drink P16.25/kg.	DEL MONTE 202 Juice Drink P16.25/kg.	DEL MONTE 202 Juice Drink P16.25/kg.
JOHNSON'S Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol P34.75/kg.	JOHNSON'S Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol P34.75/kg.	JOHNSON'S Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol P34.75/kg.	JOHNSON'S Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol P34.75/kg.	JOHNSON'S Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol P34.75/kg.
APORRO Clip Hanger Rectangle P79.75/kg.	APORRO Clip Hanger Rectangle P79.75/kg.	APORRO Clip Hanger Rectangle P79.75/kg.	APORRO Clip Hanger Rectangle P79.75/kg.	APORRO Clip Hanger Rectangle P79.75/kg.
JACK 'n JILL Nova P16.75/kg.	JACK 'n JILL Nova P16.75/kg.	JACK 'n JILL Nova P16.75/kg.	JACK 'n JILL Nova P16.75/kg.	JACK 'n JILL Nova P16.75/kg.
COKE In Can P78.00/pk.	COKE In Can P78.00/pk.	COKE In Can P78.00/pk.	COKE In Can P78.00/pk.	COKE In Can P78.00/pk.
PRINGLES Potato Chips P58.50/kg.	PRINGLES Potato Chips P58.50/kg.	PRINGLES Potato Chips P58.50/kg.	PRINGLES Potato Chips P58.50/kg.	PRINGLES Potato Chips P58.50/kg.
CHAMOR Sparking Grape Wine P174.50/kg.	CHAMOR Sparking Grape Wine P174.50/kg.	CHAMOR Sparking Grape Wine P174.50/kg.	CHAMOR Sparking Grape Wine P174.50/kg.	CHAMOR Sparking Grape Wine P174.50/kg.



FLORAL Cologne

Flower garden in a soap

THE FLOWER Shop Wellness packs flower gardens in a soap bar. The Flower Shop "sells" flowers in the form of its bath and body line that consists of floral-based products, which are all natural and hand-made.

Scents include Lavender, Chamomile Willows, Rose Blossoms, Cucumber Meadows, Tea Tree Leaves, and 11 more varieties to choose from.

The Flower Shop can be found in dainty little nooks in select Rustan's and Essences store. Each of the 16 soap variants is represented by a floral arrangement featuring the flowers from which its essential oils are extracted.

The Flower Shop Wellness is now available in Rustan's Essences in Glorietta, Alabang and Robinsons Place Ermita, and at the Rustan's Tower Shangri-La, Rustan's Harrison Plaza and Cubao.

The wallpaper ...

From page E1

These looks give consumers like Bill and Claire Ick more ways to express their personal styles.

"Our home here is similar to the one in Florida, which is bigger," Claire said. "But the wall coverings often remind us we're not far away from our home in Tampa, Florida. The paint and sponge was used in our house abroad which produced the same effect as that of a wallpaper."

After the minimalism of paint, decor paper, with its capacity to add depth and character to a wall, is making a comeback

The Icks acquired their "vacation house" in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City last December. They plan to visit the Philippines two to three times a year.

For Claire, wallpaper is more than a fashion statement. "Wallpaper is easier to maintain and can last for 10 years. The walls of our newly-acquired house are not so smooth so wallpaper covers their imperfections. I'm very happy with the effect."

Principles of pattern

With wallpaper, Chua says, one does not have to experiment with color shades. The designs you'll pick from a catalog will be exactly what you'll see on your walls.

And unlike paint, paper does not have the odor of chemicals that may be harmful to residents.

While there are no hard rules for mixing patterns, Chua reminds home owners that "too much of a good thing can be oppressive."

Light-colored wallpapers create bright, airy-looking rooms and can trick the eye, making small spaces look bigger and ceilings appear higher.

Dark-colored ones create intimate spaces because they absorb light, walls appear closer and make rooms look smaller.

Warm-colored wallpapers create drama and excitement while subdued hues make friendly spaces.

Cool colors lend a fresh appeal to a room while softer ones make a room feel less confining.

Bright hues work best in active places like children's rooms and recreation areas.

Subdued colors are usually found in bedrooms and study rooms and create a soft background for bathrooms and dressing areas.

"Create balance," Chua said. "Let the bold colors and patterns of the paper set the tone. Finish the room sparingly with simple furniture and textures that complement without competing. This will keep your room feeling contemporary and modern."

Wall Crown wallpapers are available at Wall Crown Design Center (tel. 725-5088; e-mail wcrown@pworld.net.ph) and at Our Home outlets at SM Megamall, SM Fairview, SM Southmall and SM Bacoor.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



Always there for you!



time to play



making great things possible

Globe

HANDYPHONE

Fly high with Gentxt this July

Jul 13 **adidas-Gentxt** **P1 Million Shootout** **@ Glorietta Activity Center**

Have a shot at these exciting prizes. Make 1 out of 4 from rainbow territory and take home the Grand Prize of P1 million!

Consolation Prizes:

3 out of 4 baskets: Nokia 3530

2 out of 4 baskets: adidas rubber shoes

0 out of 4 baskets: P1,000 Globe Prepaid Call Card

Registration starts on July 11, 10 a.m. until July 13, 12 noon at the Gentxt booth in Glorietta Activity Center

SPORTS

Jul 12
10:00

Globe @ UMAP
Experience basketball action LIVE to get special treats and rock looks on the Globe band!

ENTERTAINMENT

Jul 19
7:30-9:30
WED

Gentxt Nights @ DISH
Rockwell Power Plant

Join us for the Gentxt groove in our weekly concert!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

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With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

With: Mike's Shop, Vibe, and more!

PARTIES

Free entrance for all Gentxters!

Jul 16
8:23
WED
9PM

Global Grooves @ TEMPLE, Greenbelt 2
Enter the sanctuary of the hottest bar in the country... and groove to the beat of NRG led by DJ Manolai Dario. Free drink for the first 100 Gentxters!

Jul 11-18
8:25
FRI
9PM

Vibe Fridays @ WASABI Bistro and Bar, Makati (feat. DJ Steve Mills & DJ Aryan)
Come bounce with us at Manila's number one Friday night Gentxters! And above all, to the floor!

Jul 30
WED
9PM

Blazin' with DJ Nino Brown @ CLUB VEGA, Iloilo City
Australia's premiere urban club DJ mixes hip-hop and night of unforgettable hip-hop and RnB! Subject to space limitation and dress code.

B 1 OF US! Next JOIN to 2277.

ADIDAS GENTXT P1 MILLION SHOOTOUT

1. The adidas-Gentxt P1 Million Shootout is open to all Gentxt members 13 years old and above who are Globe Handyphone subscribers in good standing.
2. To participate in the adidas-Gentxt P1 Million Shootout, you must register at the Gentxt booth located at Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati during mall hours from 10 a.m. on Friday, 11 July 2003, to 12 noon on Sunday, 13 July 2003. Upon registration, you must present your Globe Handyphone and a valid ID and fill out a registration form. A Gentxt member may only register once.
3. You must be present on Sunday, 13 July 2003 at 5 p.m. at the Glorietta

Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati. Four registration forms will be drawn and the names of the Gentxt members will be called out at the venue. The chosen Gentxt members must present themselves within two minutes of being called, or other names will be called. All participants must present their Globe Handyphone and a valid ID for verification purposes.

4. Each of the four participants may take a maximum of four shots from the three-point line (23 feet 9 inches). No practice time or shots will be given.
5. Four out of four baskets made entitles the participant to One Million Posos (Prize tax shall be paid by the sponsors).
6. Three out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a Nokia 3530 handset from Globe Telecom.

7. Two out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a pair of rubber shoes from adidas.
8. Zero or one out of four baskets made entitles the participant to a P1,000 prepaid call card from Globe Telecom.
9. Each participant may only win one prize.
10. All employees of adidas, Globe Telecom, Isicom, Harrison Communications, Inc., TBWA, Carat, and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from participating.
11. Current or former professional basketball players and high school or collegiate varsity basketball players who have played at that level in the last five years are disqualified from participating.

FRIDAY,
JULY 11, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

1-50

BRIDAL gowns
by: (from left)
Joji Lloren,
Frederick
Peralta and
Randy Ortiz

LIFESTYLE



Young designers poised to take over bridal market

Cebu collections showed they're venturing into the last bastion of Philippine haute couture

THE LAST bastion of haute couture in the Philippines is the wedding gown, and the young fashion designers are storming it—with confidence.

In the last decade, that frontline has been almost exclusive to the country's foremost designers—from Pitoy Moreno and Ben Farrales to the charmed batch of Inno Sotto and Augie Cordero—who mined it, defended it from the onslaught of foreign brands, and turned it into the last remaining showcase of Filipino fashion design, talent and craftsmanship.

LIFE-
STYLED



Thelma Sioson
San Juan

Now the current generation of designers has apparently summoned enough guts, savvy and talent to join the ranks of the fashion gods, and claim its share of that

burgeoning—and lucrative—market.

This development became obvious to me in, of all places, Cebu, where the Waterfront Hotel staged a very impressive bridal show over the weekend with a powerhouse cast of designers and models. It brought together the top designers of Cebu and Manila. The latter came from the core of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines, who were flown to Cebu by the Waterfront and stayed there for all three days of the bridal fair.

They were joined by Inno Sotto, no doubt the fair's biggest catch who, of course, provided the show's finale. Even the pride of Cebu, Monique Lhuillier, the young designer who's making a name for bridal gowns in Los Angeles, sent two gowns through her mother Am-parito.

From the opening of the fair last Friday to its closing on Sunday, it was obvious that the Waterfront management, led by its president Patrick Gregorio and general manager Marco Protacio, didn't scrimp on budget and logistics to mount "Weddings at the Waterfront." It was a smart way to claim the bridal market of Visayas and Mindanao.

Classic and innovative

I've seen these designers try all sorts of experimentation and deconstruction, many times straying to the brink, other times going over the top, as they say.

In the Waterfront collections, I saw, for a change, how they could hew to classic lines, even execute strict construction while innovating just right. In short, they proved how they could design elegant wedding gowns with a twist that certainly still bore youthful taste.

Opening the Sunday fashion show that capped the three-day fair was Vic Barba who, under his popular label Vittorio, showed glitter-less wedding dresses with asymmetric hemlines, skirt of bias panels and strung at the plunging back. In his two numbers—each designer presented two ensembles—Barba captured the taste of young women.

Today's young brides don't go for heavy glitter or embroidery. They want just the faintest hint of glitter, a most elegant shimmer. They go for the supple fall of fabric, and the silhouette must show the bride's most alluring curves. To-

YOUNG/F4



Real People. True Stories.

"Now great skin runs in the family – thanks to Imedeen!"

Cynthia Elazegui Sanchez,
41, HR Manager
Cristy Elazegui Puzon,
40, Airline Ticketing Supervisor

Like all sisters, they share secrets. Like the beauty secret that keeps them looking so young for their age.

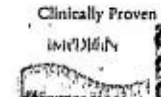
"I learned of Imedeen thru my colleague," Cristy confides. "I immediately convinced Cynthia to try it." Pretty soon, both sisters were hooked, and for good reason. "I thought my sunspots and blemishes were there for good – but now they're completely gone," Cynthia shares. "My skin really improved. Feeling ko parang skin ng baby," declares Cristy. That's because only Imedeen helps nourish and strengthen the inner layer of the skin, resulting in more youthful, brighter and even skin tone.

"We're each other's best friends," Cynthia exclaims. "But we both agree, ang best friend ng skin namin is Imedeen!"

Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture



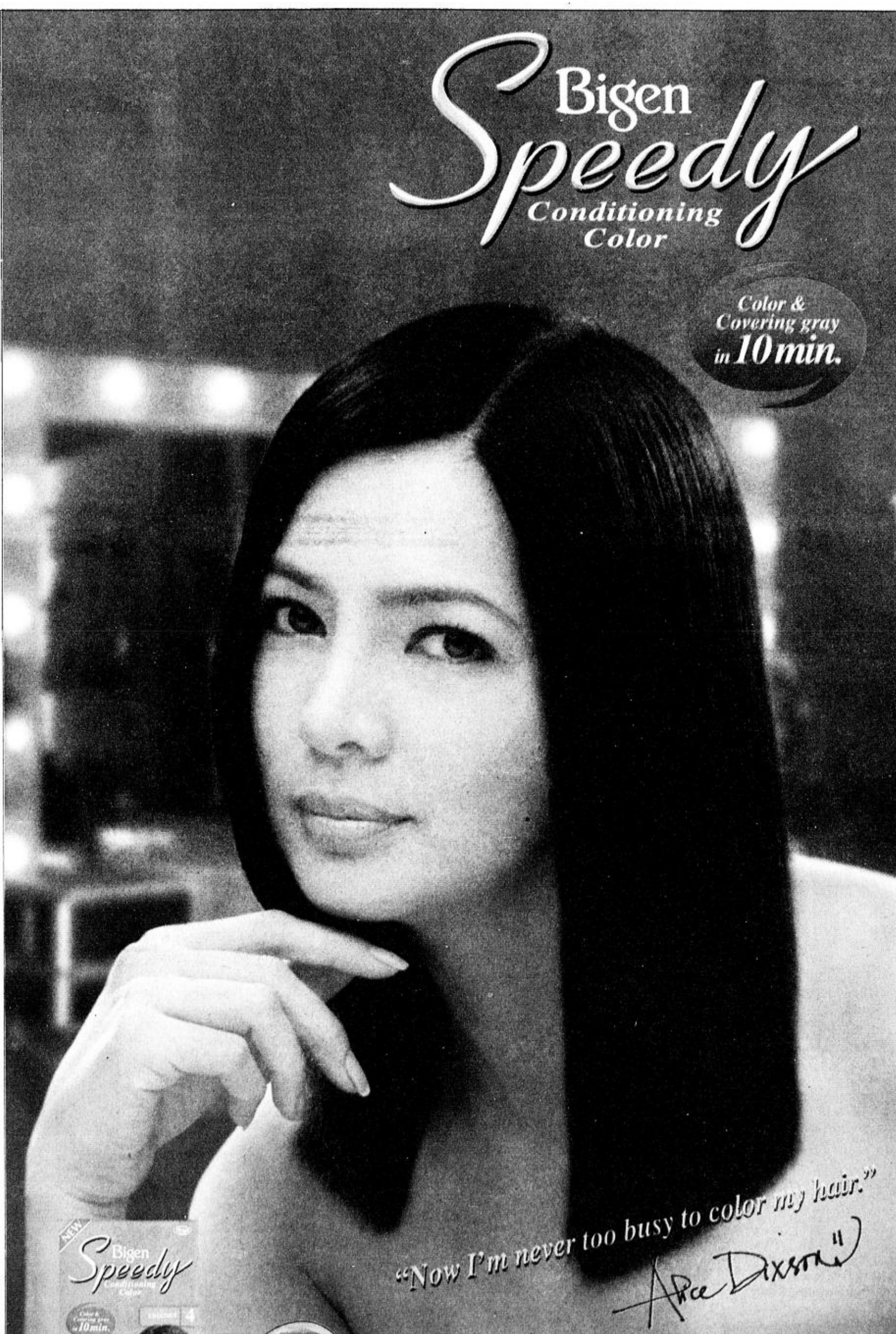
The Skin Care Tablet

Product name: Colloidal Silver Tablets, 100-1100. Patent 2017-8130025. For more stories of real women: 0202-12345678

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Ara Dixson

onstage 2myt

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HOYU No. 1 hair color in Japan



ORGANIZERS of the affair Nedy Tantoco, Irene Martel-Francisco and Gina Lopez



CHINGBEE Kalaw and husband Bobby Cuenca, with beautiful couple Eric and Jamby Valade



SEEING RED. Elena Fernando and Sonia Santiago-Olivares



ANA Tirol, Jose Llana, DJ Lopez and Ernest Escaler

Painting the town red and getting high on cinematic angels



WHEN Southern sugar baronesses meet: Mita Bantug Rufino and Nena Villanueva



LOVE IS IN THE AIR. Joey Santos and Vicky Belo



PALS FROM WAY BACK. Otta Montinola and Pitoy Moreno



JEENA Lopez



BASIL Ong



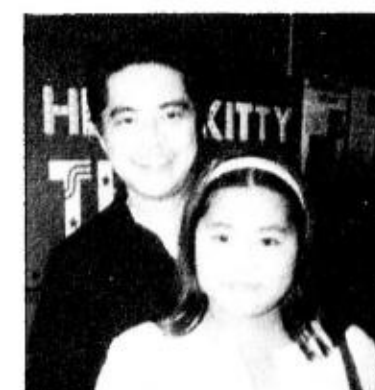
RICCO Ocampo



JOSE Llana's mom Rej Newport



ATTRACTIVE Joanne de Asis and culture-oriented Danny Dolor



DR. Randy Francisco with his *unica hija* Isabel

LAST week was a big night in Cosmo-Manille, dahlings, when civic-oriented namedroppers hosted a gala night and auction at the elegant ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, sponsored by the skincare brand Elizabeth Arden, which is launching a super new line of product called First Defense.

Nedy Tantoco chaired the 2003 fund-raising committee which included Irene Francisco, Tony Boy Cojuangco, Gina Lopez, Ernest Escaler, Vicky Zubiri and Mario Katigbak.

The loads of bucks raised went to the world's foremost humanitarian organization, the Philippine National Red Cross, natch, so the evening was billed as "Rhapsody in Red" and, believe me, I was seeing red all over, and that didn't come from a hangover, palanggas.

There were ensembles of red roses for the centerpieces on each rich table, delicious red culinary elements, flowing red wine, and bursts of fire-engine red in the outfits of the women.

Leader of the pack was iconic Philippine National Red Cross governor, ageless beauty Rosa Rosal no less, who was definitely the hottest Lady in Red!

Emcee Johnny Litton navigated the long, long hosting and auctioning night.

The red carpet was also laid out for young, good-looking Fil-Am Broadway star Jose Llana, whose brilliantly smooth manner on stage captivated the glitzy socialites, and va-va-voom London West End Miss Saigon Jenine Desiderio, who had many heavyweight magnates wishing she were sitting beside them instead of their roly-poly bejeweled wives.

Going once, going...

The auction of several exquisite Murano glass sculptures was the climax

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max



of this red night.

One tycoon told *moi* during the auction, "All the antiques and things like this my wife buys at auctions are objects my generation buys, the next generation gets rid of, and the following generation buys again. What a farce, huh!"

The Murano pieces went from P10,000-P85,000, with mostly the wives of the heavyweights competing with one another for the objects.

The calculating one was socialite D.L., who laughingly told *moi*, "I raised my hand on every item at the auction, but only at the starting bid price, and didn't get caught once!" Yep! Smart move, babe.

But the most quotable quotes of the night went as follows:

Businessman E.L.: Of course, you know I'm a well-known collector of antiques.

Friend: Yes, I know, I've seen your wife.

In the end there were tons of husbands with red faces, gritting their teeth (others their false ones) from the money spent by their wives.

Well, that's what benefit events are all about, palanggas.

Angels of the night

It was exclusive movie time at My Cinema in Greenbelt 3 when the ultra-glam, to-die-for threesome of Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu and Drew Barrymore shared the spotlight with everyone's favorite pussycat in the world—Hello Kitty!

Charlie's favorite Angels conquered us at the cinema,



BIG hug from Virgie Ramos to Kitty's Filipino beau, Martin Nievera



HOT, hot action babes Cris Villonco, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and KC Concepcion showing off Kitty goodies

while Hello Kitty scored high with the very same Heatherette Fall Winter ultra-chic 2003 Collection, which was shown at the Los Angeles Fashion show, dahlings, and will soon be available here.

Super fabi pals of Hello Kitty's very own Angel and fairy godmother, our palangga Virgie Ramos, were all in their Hello Kitty-inspired outfits.

Six lucky invitees donned the tres exclusive and strictly-on-loan Hello Kitty Heatherette Collection. *Naturellement*, *moi* did my own spy work and discovered the six babes.

Wearing the designer tees by Richie Rich and Traver Rains were adorable Sea Princess Tessa Prieto-Valdes in a chi-chi white glittered shirt, and Swatch Lady Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, who wore a black shirt with rip-detailed sleeves.

Statuesque model and PMAP president Rissa Mananquil-Samson wore on her neck the very fashionable back-to-back Hello Kitty necklace.

Hello Kitty Heatherette bracelets were worn by the very feminine Louie Locsin, angel-voiced Cris Villonco (back in town to spend her summer break from New York's Sarah Lawrence College), and Manille's hottest young property, gorgeous KC Concepcion.

But the favorite of everyone was the one-of-a-kind Hello Kitty leather jacket, which was worn by none other than Kitty's Filipino beau, Concert King Martin Nievera, palanggas.

Some of the gals were dying to get a chance to get their hands on this real cool jacket, and munch on the popcorn that Martin was bringing home to who knows who.

The affair was not only a walk through Hello Kitty's Hollywood world but an all-out movie experience! Most of those present were shocked out of their socks (and bras) when a loud 3D effect blast was heard, and confetti started falling right inside the cinema at the exact moment the Angels had their own share of confetti blast on screen. Wow!

And while the hunt for the Halo Rings was being unraveled by the Angels, we had our own fun trying to match our little rings with one another. My perfect angel bear ring match, palanggas, was Inno Sotto.

There was great finger food during cocktails, good wine, and some of the best personalities in town, plus huge bags of popcorn on each chair in the screening room.

Now, palanggas, that's real entertainment, Virgie-Ramos style.

Spotting them

Man of the moment and Broadway star Jose Llana's "Homecoming Concert" at the Westin Plaza Hotel packed them in recently at P2,000 per plate (five-course dinner) or P1,000 for bleachers seating.

This super talent had a voice that rocked the chandeliers of the ballroom; knocked the jewelry off the matrons and young babes alike; elicited yells, whistles and thunderous applause from the more than a thousand personalities in the audience, including civic-oriented shipping magnate Doris Magsaysay Ho who was swooning, hooting and throwing roses at the stage like a groupie.

Cris Villonco, already a bright star in show-biz galaxy, sang a song with Jose.

In the audience were several personas who otherwise would not be caught together in the same room—like businessman



CHERIE Herrera with PNRC governor Rosa Rosal receiving a Murano figurine from Murano's Marcoroberto Ascione



TRUE BLUE SOCIALITES. Charo Yu, Lulu Tinio and Tessie Ong



SEN. Loi Ejercito-Estrada flanked by Justa Tantoco (left) and Fe Ng.



MAY Neri with husband plastic surgeon Dr. George Neri and Rustan's fashion princess Criselda Lontok



THE GANG IS BACK. Berna Lomotan Rustia, movie actor Romeo Vasquez, Nedy Tantoco, former First Lady Imelda Marcos and Patrick Jacinto



BROADWAY MEETS WEST END. Jose Llana and Jenine Desiderio

Bobby Cuenca and his wife Chingbee Kalaw, who were sitting on the table opposite Nedy Tantoco's table where sat ageless beauty DJ Lopez.

Apres two hours and two encores with a standing ovation, typical after-show cocktails were held at the presidential suites of the hotel where Jose stayed and

enjoyed endless bottles of champagne and plates of cold cuts and cheese with his chosen guests.

All this, thanks to the man of all seasons Ernest Escaler, who brought him over for the show.

Definitely a contender to the throne of Martin and Gary, this Jose Llana.

Exhibit kicks off new store concept

AVID Sales Corporation, the leading proponent of the digital lifestyle, will launch its new Cinema @ Home Store-in-Store concept with an exhibit that runs until July

GOINGS ON

14 at the Atrium of Alabang Town Center. Appliances and electronic equipment will be shown in different home and office concepts.

BAZAAR. Shop@the Fort bazaar will be held July 12 and 13, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at NBC Tent.

ANNIVERSARY SALE. Robinsons Place Novaliches' big anniversary blowout will be held July 11-13 and July 18-20. The celebration will be marked with discounts, freebies, special clowns and magician acts, balloon twisting activities and free concerts. Call 632-7672 and 633-7641/90.

WORKSHOP. A Passing through Grief Workshop is set for July 18-20 at the Alberlone Oasis in Antipolo City. Four trained counselors with diplomas in family ministry and counseling will assist participants. Call 647-1186 or 0917-4172774.

NATIONAL SUMMIT. The ASEAN Foundation and the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology

through the Philippine Science Center will host a national summit in Manila. Call 536-3092 and 525-8752.

APPLICATIONS to the Japan Foundation Asia Center Grants Program for universities, cultural or research institutions, NGOs, government agencies and international organizations are now being accepted. Deadline for submission is July 18. Call 811-6155/58.

TRADE SHOW. Shangri-La Plaza Mall presents the All-American Trade Show until July 15 at the Shaw Hallway, Level 1. Field to Fashion and Dream: The World of Entertainment are also ongoing until July 30. Call 633-7851 and 636-1228.

EXHIBIT. An exhibit on the death care industry will be presented at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center in Forbes Park, Makati Nov. 22-23. Call 820-7879/1570.

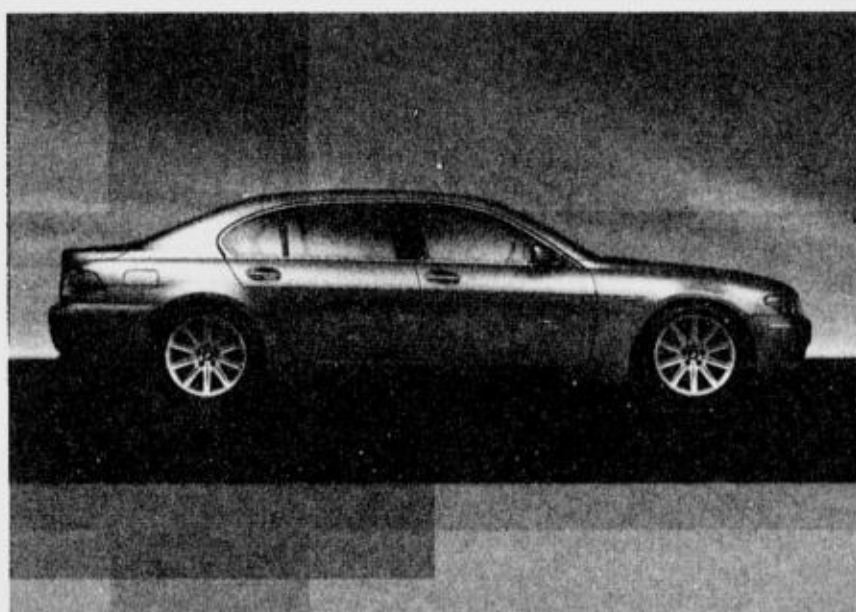
SYMPOSIUM. The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the International Visitors Program (IVP) Philippines and Metrobank Foundation present "Philippine-American Relations: Quo Vadis?", 2-4 p.m., July 24, at the CCP Museo ng Kallanangang Pilipino Multi-Purpose Hall. Call 832-1125 local 1111 to 12.

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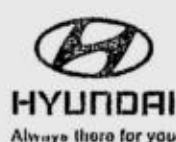
Make a valuable addition to your art collection from July 17 to 20.

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Regine is free at last.

Catch Asia's Songbird on a free concert at the Alabang Town Center's Activity Center on July 13 at 6pm.



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ASIAN-INFLUENCED gown by Philip Rodriguez with accessories by Miranda Konstantinoduo

Young designers poised . . .

From page F1

day's bride isn't reluctant to show off her shape; after all, she works months at it, going the route from boxing to Pilates. And, she doesn't mind baring a most appealing measure of skin, from shoulders to back. Also, she could use dashes of color, not necessarily pastels.

The Waterfront collections all reflected that drift. It was obvious the designers had a good sense of market, except for a few, of course, like the naughty and deviant Frederick Peralta, who clearly was out to shock by putting giant wings on his bride and slathering feathers on her gown.

Brides' favorite

After Barba came Cebu-based Mario Colmenares' rose-colored gown with adequate glitter and ruffled neckline. Patrice Ramos Diaz, a favorite of today's brides, showed her trademark simplicity in a soft-silhouetted white silk gown, its strings winding at the back, with an egg white-colored lace train. Another gown was all feminine allure, with its blush pink chiffon train in a back knot.

Rhett Eala was all nonchalance in a straight columnar gown with clusters of glitter on the skirt, and another in off-white taffeta silk with glittered straps.

Philip Rodriguez plucked out two numbers from his collection

shown two nights before. Philip's collection opened the three-day bridal event on a Friday night—his first gala, after 20 years in the business. This very low-key Cebu designer was a discovery to me. He was good; his seasoned craft and design caliber far exceeding the amount of publicity he's been getting all these years.

Tonichi Nocom underscored his forte—groom's suits in either gray, sea green, blue pinstripe or black wool crepe. His tailoring was impeccable but his clear message to the groom was not to be scared stiff to try non-black. His subtle approach to color was notable—a clear deference to the conservative Filipino groom. You saw the veteran hand in how he used so subtly a palette range, and how he blended the hue with the color of the shirt and necktie—at last a groom's tie that wasn't black.

Randy Ortiz's mini bridal dress was the evening's welcome touch of whimsy. It was so fresh and innovative without seeming contrived or irrelevant. This was because the design was expertly executed—the mini fell into a flowing train at the back. The train gave the illusion of being wrapped around the mini skirt, giving just a glimpse of that skirt. The skirt that was glimpsed was a heavily beaded lace—it was just a peek of glitter. The restraint in or-

CLASSIC. Inno Sotto creation lingers in the memory.



namentation served as good balance to a flamboyant silhouette.

Vera Wang-like

The much-awaited Monique Lhuillier gowns were the predictable loves of any bride—in the tradition of Vera Wang. They had full luscious ballgown skirts, perfect for the glide down the aisle. One had a skirt of exquisite lace, its bodice daintily ruched.

Joji Lloren went unabashedly tailored—off-white Edwardian coat, tulle bustle, unadorned except for black-string neckpiece. Since he began to lord it over young Philippine fashion, Joji had always been definite about his style statement. It's the market that finds him, not the other way around.

Rajo Laurel was sure this time—proving his hand at construction, eschewing ornamentation. His was a soft strapless number tied at the back into a train. Another was an off-white robed gown with Sabrina neckline.

The Cebu designers held their ground. Arcy Gayatin, who's reaped good reviews so far, had a ballerina-inspired ankle-length gown with skirt spruced up with appliques made of what seemed like pinches of cotton balls. It looked ethereal.

OJ Hofer, another Cebu heavyweight, had a very simple satin sheath with a lace robe in a dainty flow. It was sheer understatement.

Jude Elardo had a bare silk gown that plunged at the back and had a huge glitter-studded brooch, its bust defined by thin pleats. He also had a serpentina gown that ballooned at the hem, its tulle petticoat peeking out. He had a winner in that silhouette.

Worth the wait

Inno Sotto gave the crowd a finale that was worth waiting for. It was the best that Philippine haute couture could give that night. His first gown was satin with a stark unadorned skirt. All the attention was on the sleeveless, Sabrina-necked top—tulle ruched intricately to hold lily of the valley appliques with strategic glitter. Instead of cutting the ruched tulle, Inno let it flow into a train that trailed his bride. Another gown was a clean column with a single shoulder strap that was made of sculptured stones in faint hues but coming out like shimmery silver. That heavy shoulder piece was the gown's only highlight.

In those two gowns, Inno proved that, in designing a fashion collection, what

counted was what you remembered most. A fashion memory that turned into branding in time. In this case, what lingers in the memory are his visual highlights and ever so subtle yet intricate construction.

That night we went away remembering his lily of the valley appliques on ruched tulle.

We also went away convinced that Cebu had very good designers who could give those in Manila good competition. Philip Rodriguez had a very successful solo show on the first night, with more than 70 pieces. To me, outstanding were his *pastillas* gowns—silk organza in pastel floral prints, their hemlines shredded into what seemed like *pastillas* wrappers. Rodriguez is a serious craftsman. His art is in the minute details.

OJ Hofer deserves his reputation that has reached Manila. The second night was reserved for his lingerie. I was impressed by the way he embroidered, appliquéed, smocked and even crushed fabrics (linen, would you believe?) just to give lingerie a different feel and look.

These collections proved that today's crop of designers had learned to do elegant gowns that didn't underestimate the power of simplicity. Now the challenge is not to let that sense of simplicity deteriorate into just "plain-ness."

Jackie Aquino directed the show so well, his hand enhancing the designs, never competing with them.

This is the second year that Waterfront Hotel has held a huge bridal fair, this time capped with the launch of Metro Weddings I Do, our bridal magazine.

The event reminded us that this generation of designers was taking over.

FIONA Evangelista from Cebu models an OJ Hofer.



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LIFE STYLE



AFTER 12 sessions, with only one side treated

Cosmecanique, 'the face workout'

Part 1

WOMEN hit their 40s and I get bombarded with facelift questions. I personally blame all those movies that portray women as over the hill when they hit the big 4-0!

Now Hollywood sitcoms are

MAKEOVER 911



Kinny Salas

making more of those "I dread 30" episodes. No wonder 40 seems so over the hill. I found two facelift alternative procedures: Cosmecanique Lift 6 and Aptos Thread "Seamless Facelift." I chose to interview Dr. Vicki Belo because of three reasons: a) She's the first to introduce them in the country; b) she has tried the treatments herself; and c) she trained abroad with the actual people who came up with the procedures.

Belo agreed that a facelift at 40 is really jumping the gun, especially for Asians whose skin quality ages a lot slower than those of Caucasians. Our problem, she says, is drooping and sagging more than wrinkles.

Cosmecanique Lift 6 is a totally dry 30-minute facial using a mechanism called the Lift 6 that tones, strengthens and rejuvenates the face area. It is totally painless, non-pinching, and eliminates problems associated with human error like insufficient or

It's a new, totally dry 30-minute facial treatment that tones, strengthens and rejuvenates the face area

too much pressure on the skin of the face.

The treatment lasts for 30 minutes and can be done 2-3 times a week for 12 sessions, at P2,500 per session or P25,000 for 12 sessions.

It is "aerobics for the face," as Dr. Belo calls it, who has experienced its benefits firsthand. She points out that we go to the gym to firm our bodies and tone our muscles. For the face, all we have available are treatments that treat only the surface.

Think in terms of a house when one just improves the façade and the furniture every so often but neglects the foundation. Eventually, that house will crumble, façade and all.

Those facial exercises on video and books will actually do more harm than good, as all those contortions will lead to deep facial lines where botox injections will be the only solution.

Belo decided to try Cosmecanique in France when she no-

COSMECANIQUE/G3

Facelift without surgery

(no waiting, no scarring, no kidding)



AMAZING APTOS THREAD

by

B

BELO MEDICAL GROUP

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- ☒ Exercise regularly.
- ☒ Keep your home and surroundings clean.
- ☒ Wash your hands regularly.
- ☒ Take your vitamins everyday.

If you've been doing all of these things everyday, then you're on your way to a healthy and energetic life. Keep it up!

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BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong social skills and you like to keep abreast of the times. You're knowledgeable, and others find you cooperative and helpful. You often work best in partnership with others. You are fascinated with style and social conventions. Major changes take place in your life this year. Stay flexible.

Birthdate of: Giorgio Armani, designer; Yul Brynner, actor; Leon Spinks, boxer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You will likely have an opportunity to be very helpful to a family member today. Consider your self lucky. To be able to help loved ones is a wonderful thing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You'll enjoy buying something (perhaps an item of clothing) that brings you increased respect or prestige in the eyes of others. Wait till tomorrow to buy it. That is a better day to spend money.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You care about the freedom and welfare of others today. Privately, however, you might be contemplating a secret or illicit affair. Careful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): A casual friendship that might begin today has a very good chance of being long-lasting. There is an easy give-and-take between the two of you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel ready to assert yourself today to get whatever you want. You'll be able to do this successfully without offending anyone. You've got the right touch.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's easy to help friends today. You are in the right frame of mind, and you're willing to help others as long as they will return the favor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Others find you charming today! Not only are you smooth, you are unusually attractive today as well. Someone could get a crush on you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You want to spend money to have fun or at least make plans to do so in the future. A vacation, a date, a social event—these are just some of these possibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Someone might give you something today that makes a big difference at home. It could help you do something more easily. It might even be direct hands-on assistance from others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can charm the birds out of the trees today! Without any extra effort on your part, your ability to persuade and schmooze is uncanny today. Enjoy yourself!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your bright ideas at work can bring you more earnings or help you earn more money in the future. Don't be afraid to speak up. You can see a shortcut or an easier way to do something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel so friendly and agreeable today, you might start an interesting new relationship. People are attracted to your sexy energy! You feel confident about who you are.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Colorful aquarium fish
- Seven-year malady?
- Chutzpah
- Mores
- Scall
- S. Amer. nation
- Anton Chekhov drama
- Eye in Aik
- Columnist Bombeck
- Fever
- AEC's replacement
- Asp victim
- Drop heavily
- See
- Greek letters
- "... the fields we go."
- Apia's country
- Son of Seth
- Part of ABM
- This puzzle's theme
- Scilian peak
- Long, straight and limp
- All confused
- Neil Simon's nickname
- Dangle
- Experts, for short
- City near Provo
- "Rock of ..."
- Baby's seat?
- Iron clothes?
- Long way off
- Desert lily
- Matters
- become dicey?
- Apportion (out)
- Neck of the woods
- Fourth Jewish month
- Aahs' partners
- Mountain lake
- Gushes forth

DOWN

- Grand ... National Park
- Knockout gas
- Eugene O'Neill drama
- Muslim weight
- Fireplace residue
- Val d'...
- France
- 1988 Jane Fonda thriller
- ... Nostra
- ... polloi
- Square one
- Concealed advantage
- Angler's decoy
- Highland girl
- Depend
- Mineo and Maglie
- Audit pros
- Luxurious
- Forage crop
- Pawn
- Major ending?
- Costa ...
- Raced
- Countertenor
- Vivacity
- Regarding
- Chowder chunk
- Dumbo's wings?
- Fisherman's hand-tied fly
- Gulpin of "Frasier"
- Ins and outs
- Cartoonist Wilson
- Resignee of 1973
- Military installations
- Sphere starter?
- Stat starter?
- Gillette shaver
- Beehive made of straw
- Livestock tidbit
- \$ percentage

By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD
7/11/03

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	E	L	F	C	A	D	R	E	R	A	J	A
A	X	E	L	A	R	R	A	Y	A	G	O	G
S	P	O	O	N	L	E	A	V	E	S	C	A
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E	S	P	Y	P	R	O	N	G	K	L	A	Z

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Cosmecanique, 'the face workout'

From page G1

ticed that, at 46, her jaw line was beginning to sag and her eyelids droop.

The aesthetician initially treated one side of her face and gave her a mirror to view the difference with the untreated side. That first session already showed a minor but visible change.

She thus proceeded with the next sessions, and was so happy with the results that she brought the procedure to the Philippines.

Cosmecanique is also popular with men who have sagging chins and drooping cheeks because "it is not surgery" and won't change the face.

Complementary treatments

There are wonderful skin treatments in the market that complement Cosmecanique. They firm up the skin on the face by stimulating collagen production and reverse the damage caused by the environment, lack of sleep and bad habits.

Most of these treatments are best applied at night, because the skin repairs itself at 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., and to the face, neck and décolletage. They all smell great because they also have aromatherapy oils.

Chanel Rectifiante is for ages 35-45, while Ultra Correction is richer and is meant for those who are 45 onwards.

Estée Lauder Resilience Lift Overnight helps tighten the face and neck and has a scent that helps one sleep, consisting of aromatherapeutic properties that give a feeling of wellness and relaxation.

EOreal Revitalift, on the other hand, is for advanced sagging, while post-moisturizers are applied after the moisturizer and are not meant to replace it.

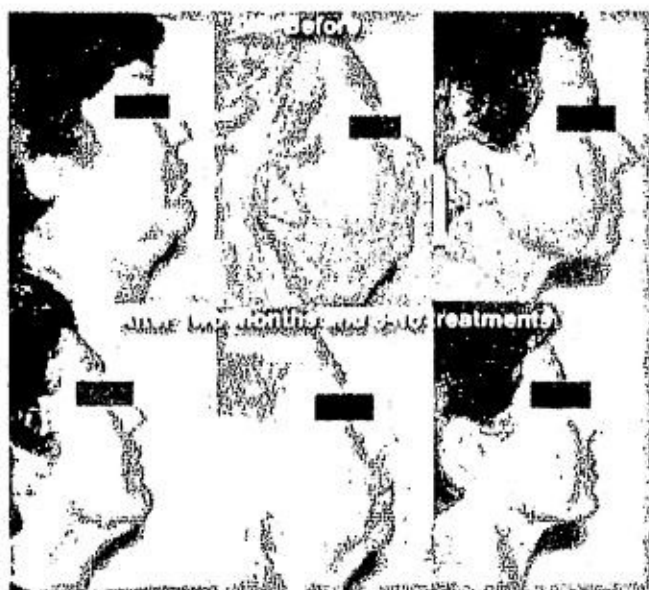
Then there's Clinique Repairwear lotion for oily skin and cream for dry skin, and Beauticontrol's Tight Fix, a gel that is applied day or night above foundation and sunblock to hold one's face up.

For day and night use, these are the products I use to soothe and aid skin healing from daily abuse, and to speed up skin recovery after power peels and sunburns: Prescriptives

line preventor +, Shu Uemura Beta-G emulsion and Neutrogena Fine Fairness Essence.

Part II next week: I will watch an Aptos thread procedure and report on my findings.

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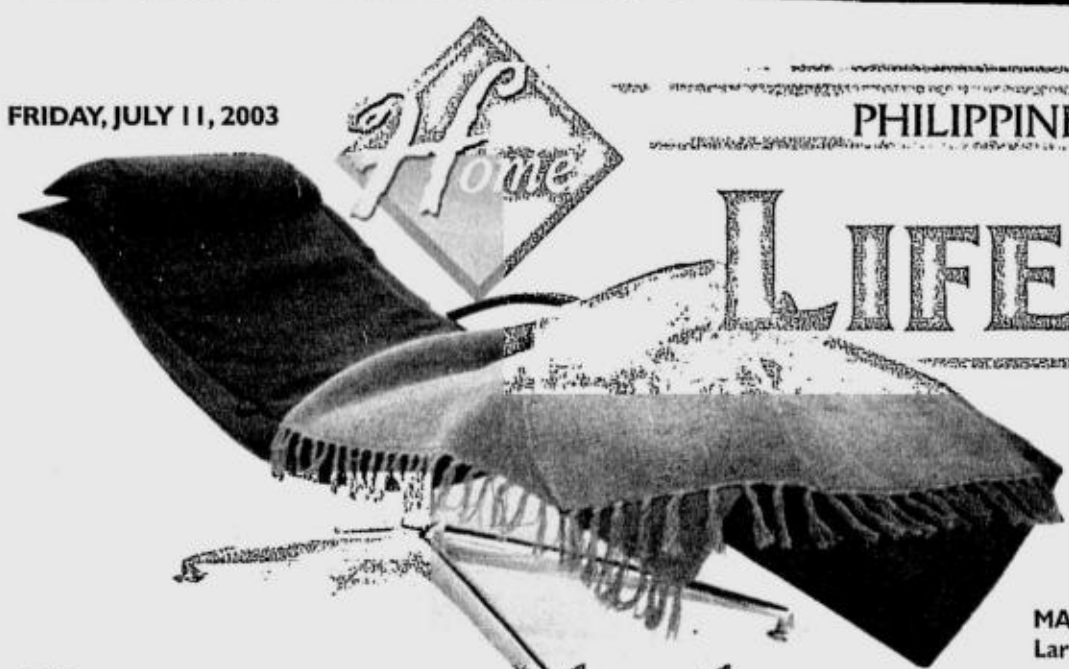
(Mary Prieto and Shaina)

bench is forever

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LIFESTYLE



Furn Italia features the leading imported brands in all shapes, sizes and colors

MASSAGING chaise lounge
Larus from Poltrona Frau

Surrounded by things Italian

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE THICK smell of leather, the swirling grains of wood, the soft feel of fabric and the cool façade of glass—all of these a new

furniture showroom promises to deliver.

Offering furniture in 90 colors and varied designs—from classic to contemporary—Furn Italia (tel. 722-0156, e-mail furnit@info.com.ph, open Monday to Sunday) seeks to be a truly one-stop

SURROUNDED/H2

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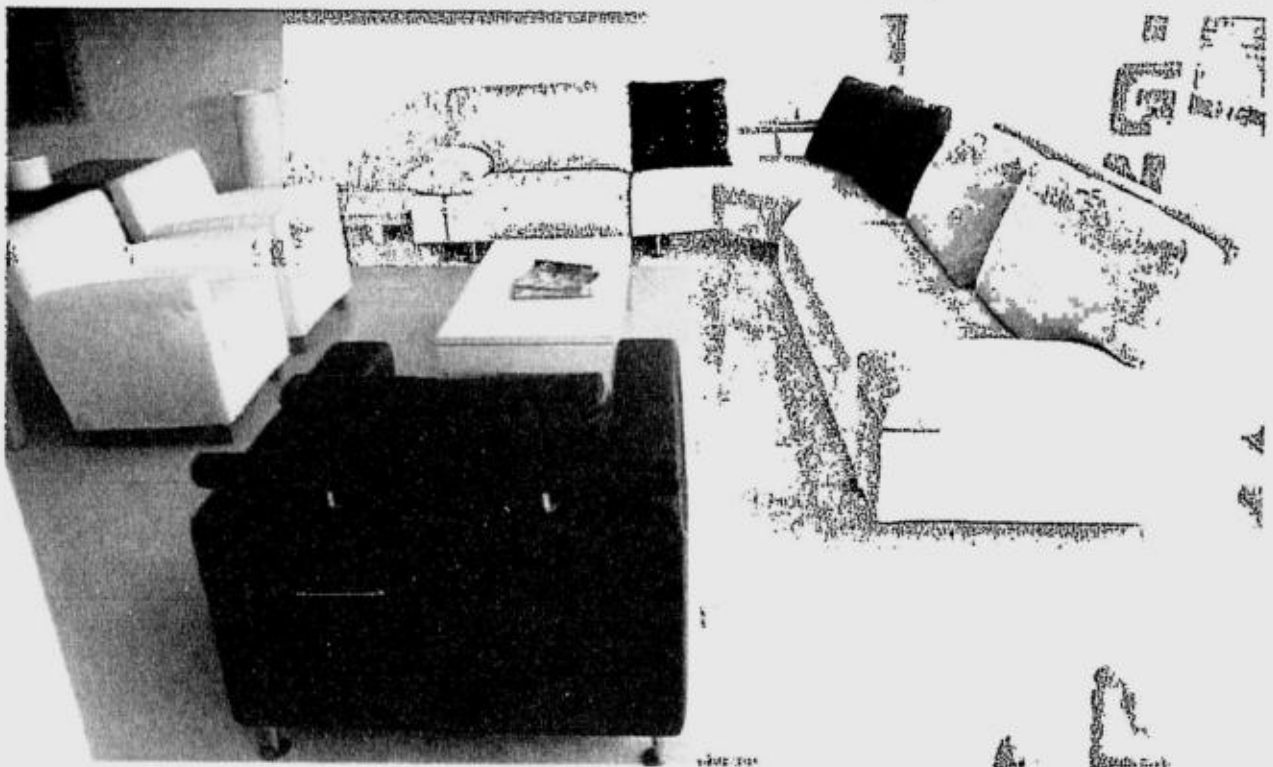
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LEVANTE sofa from Comfort, now with new elements to solve a variety of space requirements.



ROTATING column bookcase in zebrano as divider, wall shelf or TV stand

Surrounded by things Italian

From page H1

furniture shop.

"There's really no excuse for people to look elsewhere anymore. In fact, the pieces come in different sizes, too—two- or three-seater, low- or high-arm, etc.," says Furn Italia managing director Florence Ko.

Furn Italia has everything for the home—living room, dining room and bedroom. (Well, almost. Kitchen accessories will be available in the future.)

Located at Designmix Building, 59 Connecticut St., Northeast Greenhills, San Juan, on a sprawling two-story, 500-sq ft display area, Furn Italia is the country's exclusive distributor of five high-end Italian furniture brands. Each brand specializes in one material.

Among them is the prestigious 90-year-old company Poltrona Frau, which specializes in full-grain leather upholstery—the top grade kind, including the surface of the hide.

Fine quality

"Not all Italian brands have good quality. There's southern, northern and central Italy, with hundreds of [furniture] companies to choose from. Furn Italia, however, wants to be known as the store carrying good quality furniture," says Ko.

Poltrona Frau is certainly the top of the heap. It designs and creates the finest leather pieces for auditoriums, airport lounges and terminals, European Parliament seats, and the interior upholstery of such cars as Ferrari, Maserati and Lamborghini.

If leather is your thing, this company has it: from the living room to the bedroom (yes, some people love to sleep on leather beds, and Furn Italia already has four orders), from the dining area to the study. Colors are fade-resistant, and each piece is 100-percent handmade, with individual serial numbers for future reference.

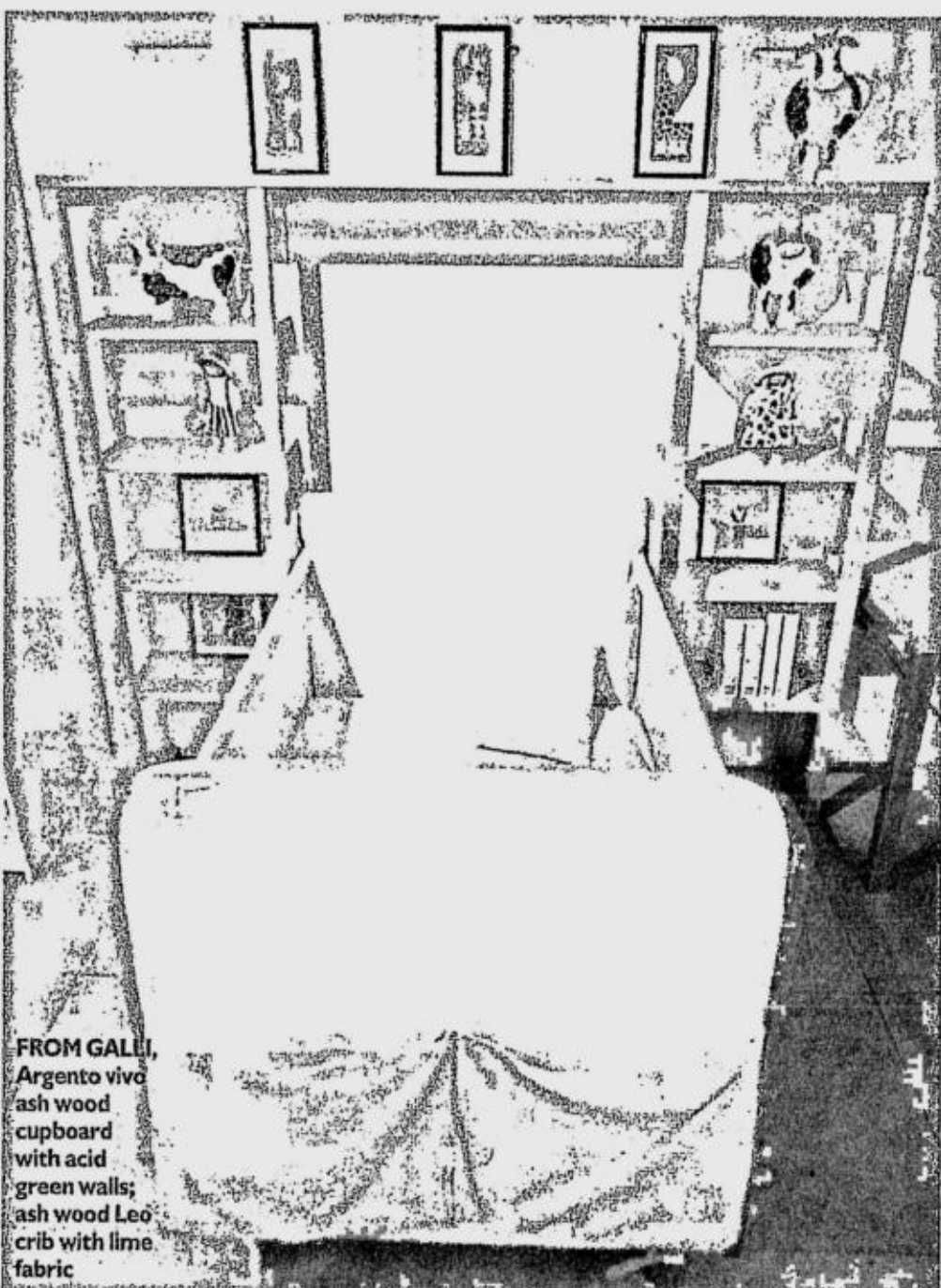
Although Furn Italia has already been consulted for auditorium projects, it wants to focus on home furnishing, says Ko. "It's hard to quote prices for projects like this. And there are qualifications for which Poltrona Frau adheres to, so it will take time for things to finally push through," she says.

Poltrona Frau's early designs from the 1930s and 1940s can also be ordered by people who want timeless pieces. More design and size options can be browsed in the catalogs.

Heirloom pieces

Fiam Italia is the brand that specializes in glass furniture, mostly tables that hold up to 200 kg, and mirrors. The company has perfected the technology of forming curved glass and employs the talent of top designers such as Philippe Starck, Enzo Mari, Angelo Cortesi, Massimo Morozzi, Hans von Klier, Cini Boeri and Makio Hasuike.

Glass is no longer for sheer ornamental accessory around the house; Fiam Italia has elevated it to become "protagonists in furnishing."

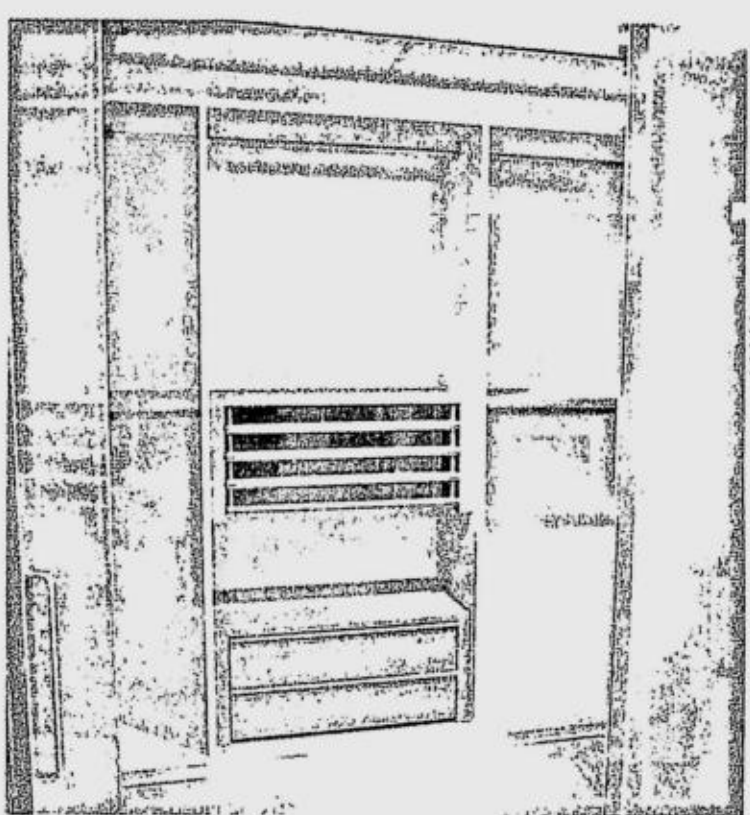


FROM GALLI, Argento vivo ash wood cupboard with acid green walls; ash wood Leo crib with lime fabric

When design meets curved glass, masterpieces are created that are fit to be displayed in museums. "If you look at these glass furniture you won't see sharp edges. Everything is smooth and heated to form the perfect curve," says Ko.

Woodworks can be had through Galli, makers, too, of walk-in closets and other bedroom furniture. In fact, constricted spaces work well with Galli as this company is into modular furniture.

"Since these furniture are investments on the side, people treat them like heirloom pieces," says Ko. For her, it is important to learn each client's lifestyle before making a sale. "Some people want nice bedrooms but couldn't care less about their living rooms. Still, there are those who love to entertain in the dining area," she says.

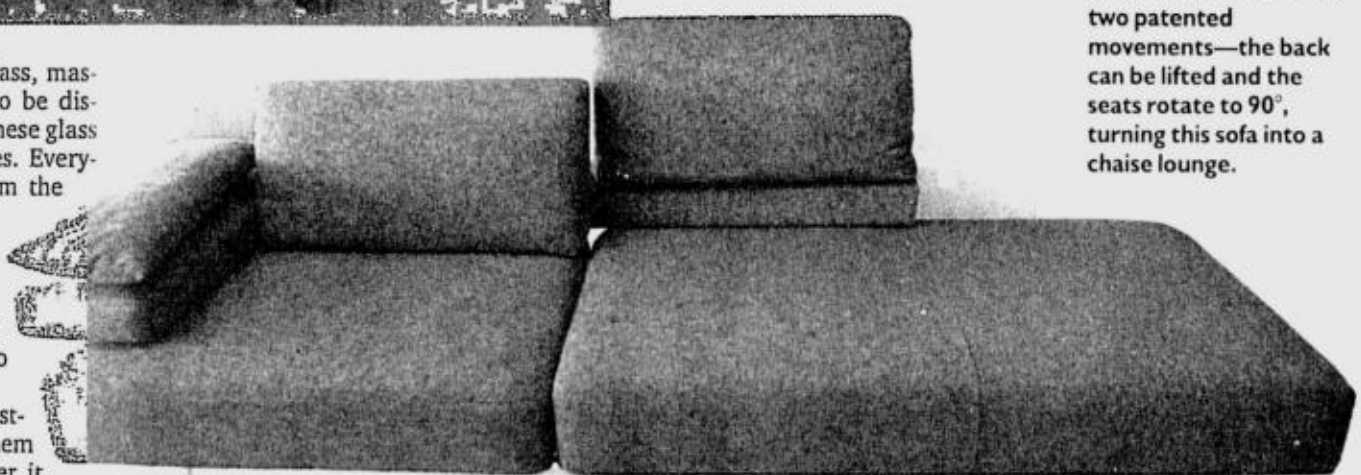


Other brands available at Furn Italia are Longhi, which makes functional furnishing accessories and furniture, and Comfort, a member of the Longhi Group, which specializes in fabric upholstery. Also available are lamps and other lighting fixtures.

Ko says orders will be delivered within 90-120 days upon purchase. Furn Italia delivers anywhere in the Philippines and the world, says Ko. "If our clients want the pieces to be delivered to a Hong Kong or Malaysia address, or Cebu for that matter, then we will have them delivered there."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

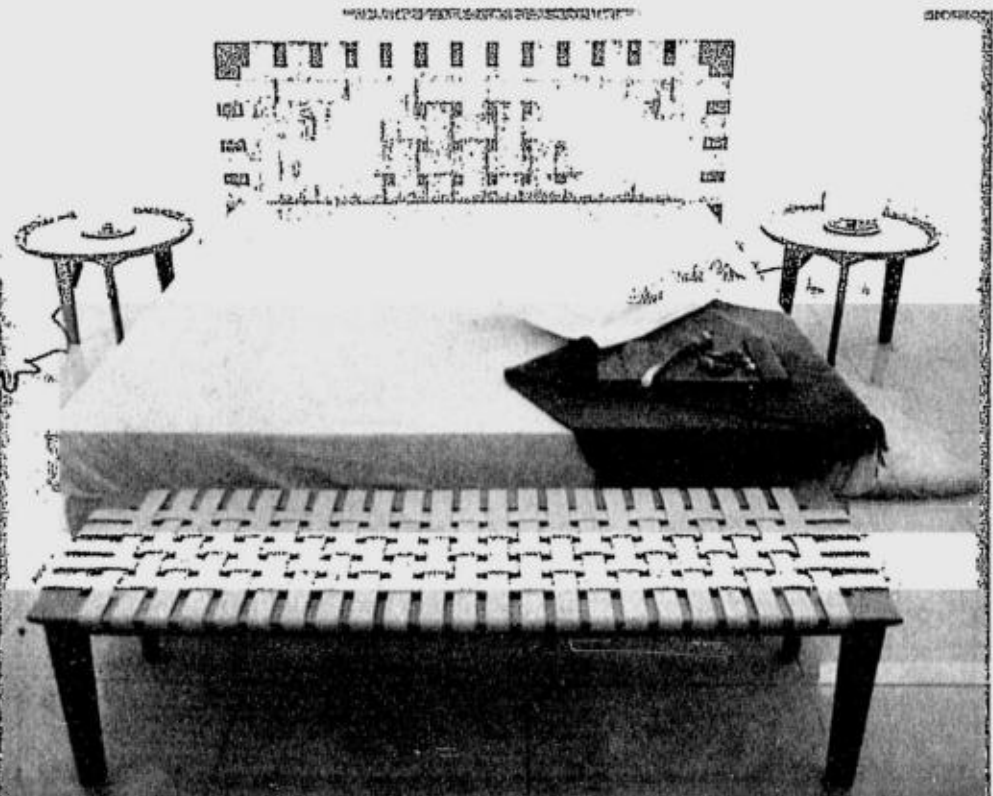
FOLDING-SLIDING walk-in closet with ivory interior and cherry wood effect from Galli



LINK from Comfort has two patented movements—the back can be lifted and the seats rotate to 90°, turning this sofa into a chaise lounge.

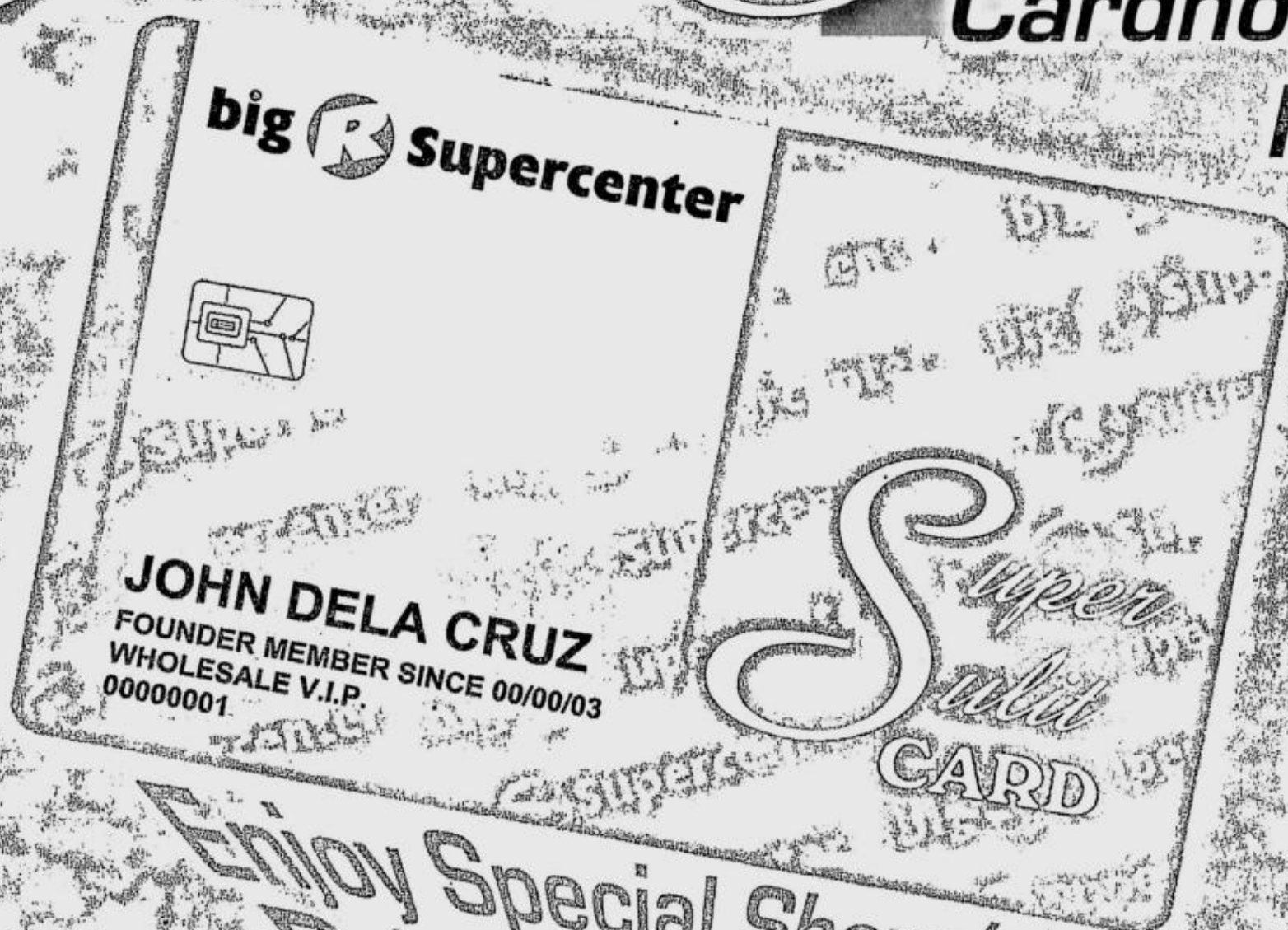


SPRINT round table and Madras chair with leather from Longhi



POLTRONA Frau's Andromeda leather bed, leather night table and leather bench designed by Tito Agnoli

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3	5,000	Samsung VCD Player Z10M Dowell Vacuum Cleaner VC-322SS Miyata Compo MCV-92 3D Dryer TD-7000 Sharp Karaoke HK-Z290 Sony Discman D-EJ361 L/S Sharp Microwave Oven R-240F
4	10,000	Samsung CTV CT-21V10 (21 in.) Sanyo Refrigerator SR-807NTD (7 cu. ft.) La Germania Range 521WP LG Washing Machine WF-F5207 Condura Aircon FCC055BP LG CTV CP-20S12A (20 in.) Sony CTV KV-HA14N80 (14 in.) Sony DVD Player DVP-NS305 Samsung VCD Compo MAX-VB450

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